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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Calls for Emergency Arab League Session *[MENA]* 3
League To Discuss Libya Crisis 22 Mar *[Cairo Radio]* 3
League To Reject Libya Sanctions *[London MBC TV]* 3
Syria, Egypt Appeal to U.S. on Libya *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Arab League on 'Danger' of Israeli Nuclear Arsenal *[JANA]* 3
Saudi Named New ARABSAT Director General *[SPA]* 4
'Sharp' Egyptian-Jordanian Dispute Over Workers *[AL-SHIRA' 9 Mar]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi: Talk of Confederation 'Premature' *[Jerusalem International]* 4
PLO Headquarters Considering Transfer to Yemen *[AL-AHRAR 16 Mar]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Future of Democracy, Army Role *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 16 Mar]* 6
Comments on Government Program *[Paris TV]* 9
Security Directorate Assesses Killings of Policemen *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

Attack on Israeli Mission in Argentina Condemned *[MENA]* 12
Al-Baz Returns From 'Successful' Sudan Talks *[MENA]* 12
Oil Minister Discusses Exploration in Hala'ib *[MENA]* 12
New Trade Protocol Signed With Sudan 18 Mar *[MENA]* 12
Atomic Agency Chairman on Funds for New Reactor *[Cairo Radio]* 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Message Views UN Resolution *[Tripoli TV]* 13
Legal Editor on Resolution *[JANA]* 13
Envoy to UN Comments on 'Extreme Pressure' *[JANA]* 13
Al-Qadhdhafi 'Delighted' With South Africa Vote *[JANA]* 14

Sudan

Opposition—Iran, Ethiopia Aiding State Forces *[AL-WAFD 15 Mar]* 14
'Intervention by Libyan Aircraft' Cited *[AL-WAFD 15 Mar]* 14

IRAQ

Article Criticizes State's Failure To Hold Prices *[AL-'IRAQ 17 Mar]* 16
RCC Strips Retired Personnel of Privileges *[AL-THAWRAH 15 Mar]* 16
Saddam Adviser Discusses Lessons of Desert Storm *[AL-QADISIYAH 14 Mar]* 17

Opposition Leaders Agree on New Constitution *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 15 Mar]* 18
Kurdish Radio Reports State Military Movements *[Voice of the Kurdish Revolution Radio]* 19
Regime Deploys Troops In, Around Karbala' *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 19
Comparison of 'Aziz Address to Security Council 19

ISRAEL

Levi: 'War to the Bitter End' Against 'Beasts' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
'No Concrete Evidence' on Identity of Attacker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Moda'i Sees 'Devious and Unfair' U.S. Policy *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Moda'i in Secret Talks With West Bank Figures *[HA'ARETZ 19 Mar]* 23
Eytan's Return to Agriculture Ministry Delayed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Poll Gives Labor 41, Likud 37 Knesset Seats *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 20 Mar]* 23
No Joint Tehiya-Moledet List in Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Amnon Rubinstein To Head Shinuy Faction List *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Gazans Barred From Israel 'Until Further Notice' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
U.S. Urged To Fight Likud 'Propaganda Campaign' *[HA'ARETZ 19 Mar]* 24
UNIFIL Protests SLA Use of Human Shields *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
PFLP Urges Intifadah Command To Include Hamas *[AL HAMISHMAR 19 Mar]* 25

JORDAN

Paper Comments on Possible Confederation Formula *[JORDAN TIMES 19-20 Mar]* 26
Columnist Criticizes 'Hastiness' of Saudi Source *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Mar]* 26
Iraq's 'Aziz Invites Zayd al-Rifa'i To Baghdad *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 19 Mar]* 27

LEBANON

Karami Discusses 'Political Sectarianism,' Media *[VOL]* 28
New Department To Probe Media Allegations *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Government 'Serious' on Security for Elections *[Beirut Radio]* 28
Karami Views Rise in Value of Dollar *[VOM]* 28
Foreign Minister Views Resistance, Hostages *[RFL]* 29

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Homeland Party Statement Hails Najibollah Stance *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Rabbani Claims To Control Most of Mazar-e Sharif *[Islamabad Radio]* 39
Militia-Mojahedin Coalition In Control *[AFP]* 39
New Administration Unopposed *[AFP]* 40
Islamic Unity Party Spokesman on Takeover of Balkh *[IRNA]* 41
Seven Islamic Party Members Killed in Clashes *[Kabul Radio]* 41

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers New Year Message *[Tehran TV]* 42
Law Enforcement Head on Efforts Against Drugs *[Tehran TV]* 42
Iraqi Kurdistan Front Delegation Arrives 15 Mar *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 43
Meets Presidential Adviser *[Tehran TV]* 43
*Paper on Khamene'i Alliance With Montazeri *[London KEYHAN 30 Jan]* 43
*Khamene'i Sides With Council of Guardians *[London KEYHAN 20 Feb]* 43
*Israel 'Seeks Peace While Waging War' *[TEHRAN TIMES 22 Feb]* 44

Pakistan

Sharif Welcomes Najibollah Offer To Step Down *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Jatoi Protests NPP Expulsion From IJI *[AFP]* 44

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, in a message to world leaders reported by Tripoli television, accused the United States, Britain, and France of "belittling the international community" with a draft UN resolution on sanctions. Al-Qadhdhafi added that if the resolution is adopted, "we should leave New York, extolling mercy for the United Nations and saying farewell to it."

Inter-Arab Affairs

An emergency session of the Arab League Council will be held 22 March to discuss Western calls for sanctions against Libya, Cairo radio reported. The League's secretary general, quoted by MBC televison, said that Arab countries "will not accept" any resolution on sanctions. Meanwhile, Egypt and Syria sent a joint letter to the U.S. Administration, expressing their concern over the Libyan crisis and stressing the need to settle the Iraqi situation, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Iraq

Under the headline, "We Trust, But!", an AL-'IRAQ writer criticized the government for its inability to control the price of food. Repeatedly stating "We do not want to believe," the writer singled out inflation, a business "mafia," and "rich men of the blockade" who have turned the country into a "slaughterhouse." The author urged that prices be frozen at current levels.

Israel

Any comparison between those responsible for bombing the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and "beasts in the woods" is "an insult to the animal world," the foreign minister said at a ceremony, carried live on Jerusalem radio, to receive the remains of two victims of the attack. He added: "To those filled with hatred, we have only one answer: War to the bitter end." In other news, Arab residents of the Gaza Strip will be barred from Israel "until further notice" in the wake of the Yafo attack, Tel Aviv radio reported.

Jordan, Palestinian Affairs

Amman has "not yet reached the stage" of announcing a confederation with the Palestinians, said an official quoted by the JORDAN TIMES, adding that statements to that effect were "premature." The newspaper quoted Palestinian sources saying that the PLO is pressing Amman for such an announcement because it "fears losing influence in the occupied territories." Speaking in Nazareth, meanwhile, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks also called talk of confederation with Jordan "premature," adding that the issue "must await the outcome of bilateral negotiations," Jerusalem's Arabic service reported.

Egypt

The foreign minister, reacting to the destruction of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, expressed Cairo's "condemnation and rejection of violence against innocent people," regardless of where it occurs or who it targets, MENA reported. The agency also covered the return of a Foreign Ministry official from talks in Sudan on the disputed Hala'ib area; the official called the discussions "successful," and hoped that the atmosphere will "remain free of tension."

Sudan

An opposition group claimed that Libyan aircraft, piloted by Libyans and Sudanese, have been involved in the civil war, AL-WAFD reported. The Democratic National Grouping also accused Ethiopia and Iran of providing weapons and troops to the government.

Algeria

The Army "does not want to take power," the Higher State Council chairman stated in an interview with ROSE AL-YUSUF, adding that the command "believes in the need to continue the democratic process and the need for democratic parties to play their role within the framework of the law." At the same time, he warned that the Army will not agree to "slaughter democracy in the name of democracy."

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i reviewed the "major events" of the past year in a New Year's message carried by Tehran television. Khamene'i touched on the disintegration of the USSR, Tehran's influence in the world, and other issues.

Afghanistan

The Homeland Party Central Council issued a statement supporting Najibollah's offer to transfer power to an interim government, Kabul radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Calls for Emergency Arab League Session

NC2003115692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, has told the MENA correspondent in Tripoli that Libya has called for an emergency session of the Arab League Council to adopt a clear position on the unjust so-called boycott which the United States, Britain, and France are trying to impose on Libya.

He pointed out that the Arab League Council formerly adopted two resolutions supporting the Libyan people against Western threats. He praised the Libyan authorities' flexibility toward the UN Security Council and said that the time has come for the Arab countries to adopt a clear stance because a boycott will be harmful not only to Libya, but also to its neighbors.

He said he will travel to Cairo tomorrow to attend the Arab League Council meeting in case it is decided to convene it at the foreign minister level.

League To Discuss Libya Crisis 22 Mar

NC1903161092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Our radio correspondent has learned that the Arab League Council permanent delegates will hold an emergency meeting on Sunday chaired by Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan permanent delegate to the League. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will be attending the meeting, as Libya is the current chairman of the council's 97th session.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the latest developments in Libya's crisis with the United States, Britain, and France concerning charges against two Libyans of downing U.S. and French airplanes.

League To Reject Libya Sanctions

NC1903213592 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Excerpt] It was reported today in Cairo that the Arab League Council will meet on Sunday at Libya's request to discuss threats by the United States, Britain, and France to impose economic sanctions on Libya. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday stated that the Arab countries will not accept any such resolution. Here is a report by Mahir 'Abd al-Rahman on the issue:

[Begin al-Rahman recording] By taking this stand, Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid has stated a feeling shared by several Arab states that reject punishing Libya. He stated that it is difficult for the Arab states to comply with a Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Libya. It is also very difficult, he added, for any Arab state to, for instance, expel a Libyan ambassador accredited to it, in accordance with the proposed Security Council resolution. The Arab League secretary general defended the position of Libya, which said it would agree to any ruling by the International Court of Justice regarding the extradition of defendants in connection with the blowing up of the U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. According to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, the court will meet on 26 March, so he called for awaiting the court ruling. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syria, Egypt Appeal to U.S. on Libya

JN1903182192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Cairo and Damascus have sent a joint letter to the U.S. Administration at noon today expressing their anxiety over the current escalation of the situation against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah by the United States and other Western countries. The letter, the content of which was agreed upon during talks between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad yesterday, emphasizes the Libyan leadership's sincere desire to fully cooperate toward a settlement of the U.S. plane issue.

According to well-informed Egyptian sources, the letter cautions against the perils of destabilizing the situation in the region, and affirms the need for the U.S. Administration to realize that the time is not running in favor of war and escalation. The letter also calls for the need to settle the crisis with the Iraqi Government in a peaceful manner. The two sides said they completely reject any new military aggression that may take place against Iraq.

The Arab League General Secretariat has invited the Arab League Council to convene an extraordinary session on Sunday, at Libya's request, to confront the measures of escalation against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. As of yet, no one knows at what level this session will take place. Libya had requested that the session convene at the level of foreign ministers.

Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, arrived in Cairo at noon today on a surprise visit during which he met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid. He will also meet President Mubarak this evening.

Arab League on 'Danger' of Israeli Nuclear Arsenal

LD1903205692 Tripoli JANA in English 0814 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, Al-Rabie [March] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab League warned of the danger of the nuclear arsenal which the Zionists have and which is estimated to consist of 200 nuclear missiles, 100 nuclear missile launchers, hundreds of nitrogen bombs, and hundreds of mines in the Golan. The report confirmed to the Arab League the need for concentrated

international action to oblige the Zionist gangs to destroy and withdraw its nuclear arsenal.

It made clear that the Israelis live in a state of fear and particularly in the Negev area where the nuclear reactors are located.

The report issued by the Arab League stressed on the need to force the Zionists to adhere to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and to accept an international inspection by the international agency for atomic energy to discover what nuclear installations the Zionists gangs have.

Saudi Named New ARABSAT Director General

LD1903213492 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, March 19, SPA—The board of directors of the Arab Organization for Space Communications (ARABSAT) has selected the Saudi nominee Sa'd al-Badnah as director general of the organization.

The Saudi nominee was unanimously chosen by representatives of the nine member-states. He is considered one of the most prominent telecommunications officials in the Kingdom.

It is noteworthy that Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Minister Dr. 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal inaugurated the board's 59th session on Saturday.

'Sharp' Egyptian-Jordanian Dispute Over Workers

NC1903083992 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 9 Mar 92 p 39

[Text] A sharp dispute erupted between the Egyptian and Jordanian authorities last week when Cairo refused to sign an Egyptian-Jordanian agreement pertaining to the protection of Egyptian workers in Jordan. This step follows the criticism of 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Jordanian labor minister and acting foreign minister, by the Egyptian ministers of foreign affairs, interior, and labor during his visit to Cairo.

The Jordanian minister had to cut short his visit and return to Amman without signing any new agreements. He also requested an urgent meeting with President Husni Mubarak to hand him a message from King Husayn regarding the need to strengthen Jordanian-Egyptian relations and to agree on a new date for the Jordanian monarch's visit to Egypt.

A number of Egyptian ministers, with whom al-Kabariti had met, have sharply criticized the minister over the ill-treatment of the well over 50,000 Egyptian workers in Jordan and their expulsion to areas outside Amman. The Jordanian minister also was criticized for the arrest of dozens of Egyptian workers and throwing them in prison without charges.

The Egyptian ministers submitted detailed reports to the Jordanian minister about the Jordanian authorities' maltreatment of Egyptian workers during the Gulf war and while crossing to the Jordanian border during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. When the Jordanian minister requested a meeting with President Mubarak to explain his country's view on the accusations, the Egyptian president refused to receive him on the pretext of being engaged in meetings and talks with the Rwandan president. The Jordanian minister had to leave Cairo on the next day and was not seen off by any Egyptian official.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi: Talk of Confederation 'Premature'

JN1903180792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1614 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded passages carried within Muhammad Sharif recorded report]

[Text] Commenting on the killing of two Israelis in Yafo, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation [to the Middle East peace talks], has said that the killing of civilians, whoever they are, is rejected in principle.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, along with some members of the Palestinian delegation, visited Nazareth. Details on this are provided by our correspondent Muhammad Sharif:

[Begin Sharif recording] Members of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace talks delegation were the guests of the Nazareth secondary school today. They took part in a seminar on the progress of the peace talks. The seminar was to conclude a week sponsored by the school devoted to celebrating the Palestinian heritage. Along with chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the seminar also hosted Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif Ghayth, Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, and Dr. Muhammad Jadallah.

The speakers were divided between support for and opposition to the peace talks. They all underscored, however, the importance of pluralism and the pursuit of a democratic dialogue among different schools of thought and opinions in the Palestinian arena. Some of the speakers criticized the weak inter-Arab coordination. Others affirmed the need to continue the negotiations. All of them agreed, however, that efforts must continue to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to bring about a just peace in the region.

The issue of confederation with Jordan was discussed in the seminar. Summing up debate on the issue, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi said: "As a matter of fact, talk of confederation is premature as far as I am concerned. It must await the outcome of bilateral negotiations."

Elaborating on his views and stands on this issue, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: "I do not think.... [changes thought] At any rate, it is quite clear that we do not reject confederation in principle. The issue is one of timing."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi affirmed that the Palestinian side will continue the negotiations and will not cause them to be halted, saying: "We will not boycott the negotiations. At the same time, however, we will not give up in the negotiation process what we consider to be our basic rights."

I asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi about his stand and the position of the Palestinian delegation vis-a-vis the killing of innocent citizens, the most recent of which was the Yafo killings. He responded to my question by saying: "I am against the killing of innocent people wherever and whenever this takes place." [end recording]

PLO Headquarters Considering Transfer to Yemen

NC2003081192 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 16 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is consulting with the Yemeni Government about the possible transfer of the PLO's headquarters from Tunisia to Yemen.

Recent reports say that Tunisia has begun restricting PLO leaders' activities.

'Arafat owns private living quarters in Sanaa.

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Future of Democracy, Army Role

NC1903190392 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 16 Mar 92 pp 11, 12, 14, 15

[Interview with Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf by Fayzah Sa'd in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] [Sa'd] Your Excellency, what do you say to those who claim that you attained your post through a silent coup? Did President Bendjedid resign or was he forced to resign?

[Boudiaf] I cannot answer that question because President Chadli was already out of office when I returned to Algeria. It was clear to me that things had reached a very serious point and that the Army command did not want a military coup but rather a change in the ruling system. This is what actually happened.

I did not discuss the subject, but there had been negotiations between the former president and the military. In fact, it was necessary for President Chadli to go. The question is whether that was done smoothly or the hard way. It was a difficult situation. Actually, when a person at the highest level of responsibility is requested to leave his post, his situation becomes very difficult.

By God, I do not know the truth.

When I returned, the Constitution was already suspended. There was a constitutional panel, a Higher Security Council, and a Higher State Council [HSC] composed of four persons: Ali Kafi, Ali Haroun, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, and Lakhdar Brahimi. I was appointed chairman of that council. They held consultations among themselves and requested that I return as HSC chairman.

[Sa'd] Your Excellency, the Algerian Army left its barracks to protect the state, and the Algerian public supported the government. In the wake of the formation of the new government, however, it looked as though the people rejected that government. How do you explain this and how do you evaluate this government?

[Boudiaf] The Algerian people are angry right now. Their anger is obvious. It is true that Algerians are demanding a fundamental change. But this change cannot be accomplished overnight. I know that the change which took place does not fulfill the people's aspirations, but the people have to be reasonable. Our problems are very difficult. We may achieve along the course the rudimentary change which they are rightfully demanding.

[Sa'd] Is it true that the strongest wing will settle the conflict in Algeria? And do you believe that the Army can remain in power?

[Boudiaf] The Algerian Army has set an example by adhering to democracy and respecting legitimacy since the October 1988 demonstrations. It could have prevented the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] from winning less than 40 percent of the vote during the elections last December. If that had happened, the National Liberation Front [FLN] could have shared the seats with the FIS and the other parties. The Army could have stopped the elections to avert a potentially unpredictable situation.

But the Army opted for another course. It requested that President Chadli resign to create a new situation. It used all the constitutional cards to its benefit to avoid being accused of planning a military coup. President Chadli was replaced by the HSC until 1993, the date on which President Chadli's term expires.

Our brothers in the military are extremely cooperative and the Algerian Army is republican and does not seek power. If it finds men who can cooperate with it to run the country's affairs, it cooperates to develop democracy. We in the HSC are cooperating like brothers to make decisions. None of us is higher or lower than the other and none of us is stronger or weaker than the other. There is a sound balance.

[Sa'd] What is your concept of democracy?

[Boudiaf] Democracy is the people's rule. I am one of those people who prefer Algeria to be democratic. It can solve the problems of the entire Third World and not just Algeria. But I support genuine democracy, pluralism, parties with future programs, and free elections.

I would like to say that when the Army intervened to stop the election process it was not carrying out a normal act. This step was adopted after extensive consultations and deliberations, and it ended with the decision to defend democracy. The Army does not want to take power. Its command believes in the need to continue the democratic process and the need for democratic parties to play their role within the framework of the law. Some feel that this is a big contradiction, but it is the truth.

There is a strong effort to give the new change a constitutional form, not as a matter of formality but as an expression of a profound conviction that Algeria's future is linked to democracy. Yes, this is true. We will work together to put the train of democracy back on the right track.

In principle we have two years until the end of the constitutional term of the former president. If we can restore democracy before that, we will not hesitate to do so. But we will not submit to extortion and will not agree to slaughter democracy in the name of democracy.

[Sa'd] This is your view of the future. Permit me to ask you: What happens if the present circumstances change? How will you act?

[Boudiaf] I really returned home to calm the situation, to restore the prestige of the Algerian state, and to create suitable conditions to hand authority over to the young. Stability in terms of security is a primary condition for making any tangible progress toward democracy, which

has become an irrevocable program. There is also the economic crisis. I think that I now have a role to play.

[Sa'd] Permit us to pause a little here and ask you about the past. How did you make your decision to return to Algeria after an absence of 28 years? What were your feelings when you stepped off the plane at the airport after all this time?

[Boudiaf] A French journalist asked me the same question. Really, it is difficult to say what my feelings were. I had the same feeling as when I went on my first pilgrimage to Mecca in 1987 and visited the Prophet's tomb and stood before the Ka'bah.

Contacts to persuade me to return to Algeria did not cease over the years. They intensified after the events of the first week of October 1988. The contacts were made by various groups and factions.

Many of the brothers who visited Morocco in the past five years came to my house in Kenitra and tried to persuade me to return to resume my political activities. A large number of them presented ideas and proposals and declared their readiness to work with me. I rejected all these offers because I was not convinced of the usefulness or the possibility of reforming the regime. I was not confident of the regime's democracy. Ali Kafi and Cherif Belkacem visited me.

During the period between the two rounds of elections I was contacted by Ali Haroun, who was minister of human rights and is now a member of the HSC. He said: Wait for me; I will come talk to you about an important matter. I thought that they would once again ask me to found a political party, so I told him that I did not want to undertake any political activity. He traveled to Casablanca anyway and drove with a Moroccan friend to join me in Kenitra. He explained to me the situation in detail and told me that he was officially authorized by decision makers to tell me that they wanted me to return to the country to take part in saving Algeria from serious evil. I telephoned Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and military officials, who pointed out to me that the situation was very serious and that I had to shoulder my responsibility. Following these contacts, I returned to Algeria and met Army commanders, most importantly Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar, as well as the prime minister. I understood from Nezzar that the Army was in control of the situation. I told him: You take power. The defense minister answered: We do not want to take power. We want to protect Algeria from sedition [fitnah] and enable it to continue its democratic experience. We had a friendly and frank debate after which I was convinced that it was my duty to Algeria to accept this challenge.

[Sa'd] Your Excellency, you told us that you accepted the challenge and that you are now working to reinitiate Algeria's democratic experience. Now that the verdict dissolving the FIS has been issued, will democracy and pluralism proceed successfully? In other words, will the people find a way to express their will?

[Boudiaf] Had we allowed the FIS to take power we would have entered anew into an age of great sedition in which Muslim blood would be shed, Muslims' money squandered, and their differences deepened at the level of individuals, groups, or nations. I personally accepted the responsibility to put out the fire of sedition that was threatening our country and our region in the Arab Maghreb and East. I am a Muslim. We respect Islam. These people claimed that democracy is blasphemy and declared jihad. These Islamists said that they look up to Afghanistan as their model. We can see for ourselves what is happening there. Those who are calling themselves mujahidin are members of groups who are devouring each other. More victims died in the wars of liquidation than were killed resisting the Soviet invasion. The Soviets have left Afghanistan, but the mujahidin are divided into groups and parties and the hostility and hatred among them has deepened. Do they want to bequeath to us the fighting that is raging in these faraway countries?

[Sa'd] Is the 60-member committee [not further identified] entitled to change the Constitution?

[Boudiaf] It has every right to do so and it should. Anyway, it is now Ramadan, but it is inevitable that we will review the Constitution, return to democracy, recognize parties, and hold new elections. We may decide to hold presidential elections before parliamentary elections.

[Sa'd] If the Constitution is rewritten and it does not provide for the establishment of religious parties, and parliamentary elections are authorized, FIS members may once again infiltrate parliament individually, without belonging to any specific party.

[Boudiaf] Some FIS elements may infiltrate. I would like to note here that the FIS' mistake was breaking the law. If an Islamic body which respects the law and safeguards security is formed in the future, only the people will decide, regardless of the form that this body takes. The FIS will not win a majority of seats in parliament this time because the power they gained in the previous elections was the result of many internal factors: The state's authority was absent from the street, there was a grinding economic crisis, and unemployment increased among youths. They scared the state off. When we arrested some of these bearded persons [fundamentalists] we discovered that they do not have that frightening power, the power that is only available to strugglers.

Even the municipal council elections were decided on the basis that there were Muslims and atheists, and some people had to choose between good and evil, between Islam and atheism. These were in no way elections. If only the FIS had presented a plan for Algeria, one outlining their vision of the future, of how to resolve the economic crisis, or even how they see Algeria in its Arab perspective. They did not even have a specific stand on

North Africa. [FIS leader] Abbasi Madani refused to answer when he was asked about the Western Sahara issue.

[Sa'd] We hear from Algerian sources that everybody is calling for dialogue among all parties. I notice a kind of voiceless dialogue among the various parties. Can this type of dialogue produce the appropriate structure of the future Algerian state?

[Boudiaf] For whom and with whom will that dialogue be held and why? That dialogue should have been held when Algeria was in danger. That is all finished now. Yusuf Ben Hezzah approached me for a dialogue, but how can a dialogue be held when there are 60 parties, the number of licensed parties in Algeria? Such a dialogue would mean discord. What we need right now is calm. Algeria is experiencing a grinding economic crisis. This makes it incumbent on all to understand the situation clearly.

[Sa'd] Then what does your call to establish an apolitical national grouping mean? Will this be a substitute for the FLN, or is it, as some think, an attempt to minimize the role of political parties?

[Boudiaf] The national grouping must be political or it will have no meaning. It will be primarily political and a national grouping. If socialism and everything else is lost, the homeland and love for the homeland will remain. This is the class of youths who must play a role in building society. The youths know their problems more do the authorities. If these youths feel responsibility they can solve many problems. I think that if this grouping—which is primarily a popular grouping—had the freedom to implement its ideas and views we could see ourselves emerging from the crisis. If we could establish confidence between the base and the summit and if the base was organized we could achieve big success. Most of the parties have failed up to now. We saw them in the recent elections. They do not have a program for these youths. This national grouping is not against parties.

[Sa'd] How do you assess the economic crisis and its effects on the present and future situation in Algeria?

[Boudiaf] The solution of the economic problem is the basis. Algeria made a grave mistake by choosing the socialist course. There has been a big increase in the population. In 1962 we had 6 million people, and today we are 26 million.

I think that if everyone in authority and all the sectors that can deal with this extremely grave problem cooperate, we will find a solution to this crisis. If we can solve the economic crisis the political problem will be resolved. The problem is that 70 percent of the people in Algeria are under the age of 30. These youths need housing, work, and food. We held contacts with some Western countries which have agreements with Algeria. Algeria has a debt of 25 billion [currency not specified] and pays 75 percent of its revenue to service this. Mexico, for example, has a debt of 90 billion but pays less than we do. Why does Algeria pay so much? Because the loans were short term. This was a political mistake. So, do we go back and look for those responsible?

I think that Algeria has sufficient resources to solve this crisis. Because the debt problem has gotten worse in the past two or three years, I think that there are now practical plans such as fuel and energy joint ventures, but these have not been effectively utilized.

There was overspending. The government now has a program to revitalize the economy. It is aware of the need to deal with unemployment to solve this problem. The government is currently seeking to develop oil wells and to find new oil. I met this week with Ibrani, the director of Occidental Petroleum. I found him to be very optimistic. There is a vast scope for work in Algeria. High technology exists in the West, but Algeria does not possess it. Perhaps this could be one of the solutions. The other solution is to pay more attention to agriculture. We have a plan to cultivate the desert, which lies over a lake, but there is a shortage of scientific resources. If these projects are considered seriously they could help to solve the economic crisis.

[Sa'd] You have used the term North Africa in more than one place. In fact, you used it in this interview when you said that the FIS is a problem which threatens North Africa. What about the other problem, the Sahara?

[Boudiaf] The Sahara issue will continue to represent an obstacle to building the Arab Maghreb. The Third World needs cohesion and cooperation now more than ever. If the Saharans had the same sense of responsibility that we in Algeria and Morocco have, they would have cooperated to solve the problem. I believe that there is now a will, at the top level, to resolve this problem as quickly as possible. I have discussed the problem with all brother decisionmakers and have held expanded consultations with all the parties concerned. They all agree on the need to speed up the finding of a solution to the problem. Our ideas may not now be clear enough, but we agree on the need for an urgent settlement. I pray to God to make it easy for us. The Sahara issue has persisted for 17 years with no benefit whatsoever for anyone, not even Algeria. It has instead benefited foreign arms dealers.

[Sa'd] What is the solution in your opinion?

[Boudiaf] A referendum. If the parties concerned do not agree on that in goodwill, then I have no other solution to the Sahara issue. I believe that this is possible through restoring confidence among Algeria, Morocco, and the brother Saharans. But the brother Saharans are still vague about the issue. I adopted a certain stand in 1975; I said that the Sahara issue was not in the interest of either Algeria or Morocco.

[Sa'd] A last question, Mr. Chairman. How do you view Egyptian-Algerian relations?

[Boudiaf] Egypt stood by Algeria during difficult years in its history, although its resources were not extensive in the time of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Egypt is gifted by the Almighty; it has a long history and carries weight. In spite of its problems and the poverty of its people, Egypt is playing a significant international role in the North-South dialogue and now in the Arab-Israeli dialogue.

Egypt embraces all, from both the East and the West. Therefore, we say that Egypt has always openly been on our side, except for some papers like AL-WAFD. I deeply regret that. That paper has translated a French article. I know these things.

Egypt has an important role which we can neither forget nor ignore. I hope that the Arab League, which has returned to Cairo, will play a wider and stronger role because the Arab weakness due to the discord created by the Gulf war has weakened the League and its role. Rich Arab countries must cooperate and give a hand to poorer ones. Fraternal ties must be effectively reinstated among Arab states. This is the role that the Arab League should play. The League existed before Arab states gained their freedom. We will never forget the Voice of the Arabs radio station during the Algerian revolution. Now that Arab states have all been liberated the Arab League no longer plays a significant role.

I did not get to know President Mubarak in person. He came to power when I was away from the political arena, but I can see his value. He played an important role during his recent tour to discuss aspects of the Libyan crisis.

I send him my greetings. The Egyptian people's problems are enough for him. I pray to God to help him solve these problems, particularly because the situation in the Arab world does not please anybody.

Comments on Government Program

LD2003014992 Paris TV5 Television Network in French 2035 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Interview from the "Le Marche du Siecle" program with Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf by Jean-Marie Cavada and Bruno le Dreff, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Cavada] We will come back in a while to your government, your political program, to what is needed to achieve in this country, which is not a simple matter. But first, some very sensitive points that are related, if I may say so, to your conception of respect for human rights and of what you can order the administrative and government services to do. Bruno le Dreff and I would like, if you would, some more details on the fate of the people who have been detained.

[Le Dreff] First, Mr. President, would you like to give us details on the number of people arrested. A figure of 9,000 is generally cited. Do you accept it? And what are the conditions of their detention? The families who visited their relatives in Reggane [detention camp in the Sahara] say that the conditions are difficult, that they are living in tents in great heat, that they could not have a change of clothing. What about these conditions?

[Boudiaf] Well, it is true that the number of those detained in southern centers is around 8,800, a figure under 9,000. There are complaints about material conditions....

[Le Dreff, interrupting] How many detention centers are there, Mr. President?

[Boudiaf] There are five at the moment. We are now seeking other centers because the Human Rights League which visited these people observed overcrowding and the authorities in charge are trying to find other centers [words indistinct]. What is certain is that the arrest of all these people was carried out within the framework of the state of emergency, a state of emergency imposed upon the authorities because we had to put an end to this situation which every Friday created problems for the forces of order and for citizens. Because the first objective of my return was to reestablish the authority of the state, it was impossible to continue in that way. [passage omitted]

[Le Dreff] Mr. President, do you think that you could be lied to about the figures or about the conditions of detainees?

[Boudiaf] I don't think so, I don't think that I am lied to because I request information every 24 hours. There are people in the police stations—things developed quickly and ("the security forces) themselves for a certain period of time did not have the exact figure. What is certain is that as for international organizations, I saw the representatives of the Red Cross, I authorized them to go on the spot, Amnesty International is there too and we told them that we will facilitate their trips there. We have not hidden anything. We have authorized the families to go and visit the detainees. If the detainees do not wish to see them, that is another thing. I say one thing: There are a lot of brotherly feelings in this situation. I think and I hope that this situation will not continue because so many people are involved and many will be released before the 'Id festival concluding the month of Ramadan, and many more releases will follow.

[Le Dreff] Mr. President, who decided on these arrests? Was it you, the Army, or Mr. Ghozali's cabinet?

[Boudiaf] There now is a Higher State Council, and it was this council, which replaced the president of the Republic, that made this decision, that made the decision to impose the state of emergency and which decided to put an end to this anarchy which was gaining momentum.

[Le Dreff] Mr. President, the FIS was dissolved very recently on 4 March 1992. Is this a final decision?

[Boudiaf] They appealed and the court will decide. I trust Algerian justice.

[Le Dreff] Beyond this answer, which, if you will excuse me for saying so, I was expecting, what is your personal feeling? Can you express it publicly?

[Boudiaf] I have no thoughts about that situation. It is up to justice which, with time, will be independent, fully independent. If we move toward respect for human rights, toward the march to democracy, then we must already set the example, and the body that is considering this issue will decide. [passage omitted]

[Le Dreff] Mr. Boudiaf, where do the funds for the fundamentalist groups that you mentioned come from?

[Boudiaf] They first received money from Saudi Arabia, they received money from the people in the Gulf, and they received money from Iraq. Lately—and this is more serious—they received money from Iran. This is why we understand the reaction, the very strong and very stern reaction of the Iranians when the FIS was dissolved. So far we have told them through our ambassador, we brought it to their attention, that this is an internal Algerian problem. They continue, and I read in a newspaper today that they are threatening the Turks with turning Turkey into the Algeria of the Black Sea. [passage omitted]

[Cavada] If you don't mind, we will now touch upon how you will exercise your political power and carry out your program. First there is this problem: How will you establish your political legitimacy in the long run? Where will you find support because, for the younger generation, you are a historical hero whose name was never mentioned, even in the history books? This is a problem, so how will you deal with it?

[Boudiaf] Well, it must be said that until the end of 1993 it is only a transitional period, and even the last program of the government—the program and the government that were reshuffled—did not please everyone. It was sharply criticized because most people expected a radical change, but this radical change is not easy. It should be prepared and one should not get things wrong.

What I can say is that there is a change under way in Algeria, a change that I would like to transmit to the youth. My aim is to make the Algerian youth, who are the majority—those under 30 comprise 70 percent of the population—an active element in Algerian political life, all these youth who were set aside and marginalized. My aim is to see that these youth organize themselves around these difficulties and become an element of dialogue and a counterweight. I believe that this is where the great difficulties lie. [passage omitted]

[Cavada] Yes, Mr. President, I think that these youths are waiting for very concrete and speedy measures. Are you ready to....

[Boudiaf, interrupting] What measures are you referring to?

[Cavada] There was a report that heads will roll. Are you ready to make heads roll? Is Algerian justice behind you to put the house in order?

[Boudiaf] I convened the Magistrates Higher Council, I exposed the problem and told them: Many things have been said about justice and it is said that there is a lot of corruption in this justice. [Words indistinct] and they admitted it. It is true because conditions emerged in Algeria in which getting richer and indulging in corruption have become a kind of norm, and the example comes from above. This is a reality. Now what can one do with this justice? I have met among the magistrates people as outraged as those in the street and who have really decided to clean up the mess. I can tell you this: We are going to examine the files, but I would not like it to be a witch hunt, I would not like it to be a settling of old scores. This requires time. We are completing files and we would like to move in this direction. We will succeed. [passage omitted]

[Le Dreff] In a few words, where can the resumption of the country's activities stem from? From within, and under these circumstances, how? Or does this depend mainly on international loans?

[Boudiaf] Before coming to this we must admit that the Algerian economy is sick. [passage omitted] Algeria has the means to develop, it has potential, it has raw materials—gas and oil—but this is not enough because we still have debt. We have a difficult period of two or three years ahead of us. During this period we will rely on two elements: a better internal organization and on help from our friends, and particularly from Europe. Europe includes France and Italy, which can help not only in the interest of Algeria alone but also in that of the entire Mediterranean region because if one wants to prevent massive immigration, one must try to develop Algeria. It is in everybody's interest. That is why I say that Europe has duties toward the countries of the South, those that make up North Africa.

[Le Dreff] Are you satisfied with the manner in which Europe is helping you, will help you, or promises to help?

[Boudiaf] Yes, I am very satisfied and I have here an appeal from a number of French figures who understand the danger involved. I think that there are great chances that Europe should help Algeria and through it the whole of North Africa, which represents Europe's southern flank. [passage omitted]

[Cavada] Do you believe that France has special duties toward Algeria?

[Boudiaf] We have an enormous amount of things in common: a common history, there is the problem of language, that of immigration, and all this has created relations which one cannot erase from one day to another. Exchanges must take place and we must overcome the atmosphere of tension and missed opportunities. [passage omitted]

[Cavada] Have you already planned an initiative to make these relations clearer, more trusting, and less emotional?

[Boudiaf] Yes, our foreign minister recently met with President Mitterrand and found much willingness and understanding of the situation.

[Cavada] This is classic diplomatic activity. Do you yourself already have a particular step in mind?

[Boudiaf] There is (?much scope) for investment in Algeria. We would like capital to come and bear fruit in Algeria in partnerships and through cooperation. This is feasible. [passage omitted]

[Cavada] We have about 10 minutes left, and if you don't mind we would like to ask you some quick questions. First, some in Algiers say that you do not move about very much, that you do not go out very much. Have you already thought about your next official foreign visit and which country will it be?

[Boudiaf] I am not considering a foreign visit because I consider my commitments in the country much more important than foreign visits.

[Le Dreff] Which high official would you invite to your country first?

[Boudiaf] I have no idea about that. I am telling you that I am obsessed with the country's domestic situation; before anything else I would like to address the country's problems before thinking about the outside world.

[Cavada] In Europe, and in France in particular, some are worried, and some say that Algeria is busy building a nuclear bomb. It this true, and with whom?

[Boudiaf] No, that is absolutely false; investigative commissions have come to see for themselves. Algeria has other problems without having to build a nuclear bomb.

[Cavada] So this means that rumors concerning relations between China and your country on this issue are false?

[Boudiaf] Why false?

[Cavada] No, I mean rumors concerning relations in the field of nuclear cooperation are false.

[Boudiaf] No, not false. China is present, but Algeria does not intend to produce weapons of mass destruction nor to manufacture a nuclear bomb. If there is work in this field it is much more for other purposes than for weaponry or something like that.

[Le Dreff] In which situation do you believe that the Army, which if not a singular army, exerts an original role; when does it believe that the authorities are going too far and it then reestablishes the order that it wants but refuses to exert power and returns to the barracks? Do you feel that you are somehow under surveillance?

[Boudiaf] No, not at all because the Algerian Army has always played a role. As long as this society is not properly structured, as long as parties representing something do not exist, the Army will play the role that it has to play. And this situation—the revolt and surge of the FIS—has come about because this Army has to bear the mistakes of politicians such as the events of 1988, which the Army does not forget. The Army would like to spare this bloodshed in Algeria. The Algerian Army is a republican army which is awaiting only a return to normal, to return to its barracks. I am convinced of this. [passage omitted]

Security Directorate Assesses Killings of Policemen

LD1903195192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Following the recent intensive assassinations of security men, for which there has been no parallel since independence, the General Directorate of National Security held a news conference. Mourad Meddaoui has the details. [Meddaoui] The news conference was presided over by the deputy director of the criminal affairs branch who pointed out that terrorism and assassinations of security men are on the increase and that those responsible are not connected to specific parties. He said that one cannot point a finger at one specific party. In fact, information affirms that most of the arrested detainees have prior records. He emphasized that the investigation is still in progress.

The deputy director of the criminal affairs branch affirmed that the security directorate has carried out all preparations and has taken measures to confront these actions within the scope of its capabilities and in cooperation with the other concerned parties.

As for the effects of these assassinations on other security men, the deputy director of the criminal affairs branch stated that these acts have renewed the policemen's determination to end the violations in cooperation with the citizens because the weapons in circulation not only threaten police but also citizens. The General Directorate of National Security expects on the first days of such acts. [sentence as heard]

On the sidelines of the news conference we spoke with an official and asked him about the number of dead and wounded. He replied:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] The number of policemen killed since 7 February is 18. The number of wounded policemen is 128. The number of dead civilians is 76, including a 10-year-old child. Wounded civilians total 270.

[Meddaoui] Can we know the reasons behind these assassinations of policemen?

[Official] The reason for assassinating policemen is to obtain their weapons. The main aim is to obtain these

weapons for use in other assassinations, although probably not of policemen. Perhaps it could be to kill civilians.

[Meddaoui] Are these assassinations connected with a settling of accounts or with a specific conflict?

[Official] The investigations in progress have not found anything up to this point. As for us, the police, these assassinations were carried out by people for whom the law provides a punishment. We will apply the penal code and the criminal procedures law. [end recording]

Egypt

Attack on Israeli Mission in Argentina Condemned

NC1903122792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed Egypt's condemnation and rejection of violence against innocent people.

Commenting on the attack against the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, Musa said today that such events encourage the escalation of acts of violence. We voice our regret at such attacks, Musa said, whether they are carried out inside or outside the occupied territories and whether they target Muslims, Jews, or Christians.

Musa said that Egypt demands that all sides stop acts of violence, because they only generate more violence. He also called for calm and respect for the legitimate rights of all sides, particularly the Palestinian people.

Al-Baz Returns From 'Successful' Sudan Talks

NC1903221392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo today after a three-day visit to Sudan, during which he headed the Egyptian delegation to the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee on the Hala'ib problem.

Upon his return, al-Baz described his talks in Sudan as successful, saying they took place in a family atmosphere, and within the framework of Egyptian-Sudanese brotherhood. He said that topics connected with improving relations between the two countries were discussed in an objective atmosphere free from tension.

Al-Baz expressed the hope that the atmosphere of the talks will remain free of tension, so that bilateral relations will be strengthened. He said: We believe in the common objectives of the two people of the Nile Valley. We found full understanding and response on the part of our Sudanese brothers. We are in full agreement on the need to settle outstanding issues, which are small problems that cannot disturb relations between the two countries.

Al-Baz noted that the next round of Egyptian-Sudanese talks will be held in Cairo during the second week of April.

Oil Minister Discusses Exploration in Hala'ib

NC1803165092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, disclosed that the Canadian Government has told a Canadian oil company prospecting for oil in the Hala'ib area to stop work until the dispute over this border area with Sudan is settled.

Addressing a People's Assembly Industrial Committee meeting, chaired by Engineer Dr. Amin Mubarak, the minister said: We have advised international oil companies that this area is Egyptian, is situated inside Egypt's borders, and that oil prospecting in joint areas between ourselves and neighboring countries will be coordinated with the Foreign and Defense Ministries.

Commenting on the Petroleum Ministry's plans, al-Banbi emphasized that they rely on encouraging Arab and international companies to search for oil and concentrate on exploring for natural gas, increasing its reserves, improving the quality of oil products, and applying a policy of rationalizing consumption. He said that the crude oil production rate is 870,000 barrels a day, and natural gas 10 million tonnes.

The petroleum minister noted that the electricity sector alone consumes approximately 32.5 percent of the oil and gas output, that the aggregate total of Arab and international companies' investments reached $5.721 billion, and that around 170 oil accords have been signed since 1973, with 50 companies from more than 20 countries.

He added that these accords yielded an increase in the residual oil reserve in the ground from 3 billion barrels in 1973, to about 6 billion barrels today. Output during this period is estimated at 4.7 billion barrels.

New Trade Protocol Signed With Sudan 18 Mar

NC1803112592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Egypt and Sudan signed a new trade protocol today, worth 350 million accounting dollars. Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, signed the protocol for Egypt and Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah, Sudanese minister of commerce, cooperation, and supplies, signed for his country.

Dr. Mustafa said that the two countries will now have the option to conduct their commercial transactions either through hard currency, equal trade agreements, or the newly signed protocol. Dr. Mustafa mentioned that trade between Egypt and Sudan has grown considerably

since October 1991, due to the economic reform measures in Sudan, particularly those involving the exchange rate. [passage omitted]

Trade conducted under the agreement will be valued by the dollar accounting rate, which is equal to 1.31 Egyptian pounds, or 37 Sudanese pounds.

Atomic Agency Chairman on Funds for New Reactor

NC1903070792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM quotes Dr. Fawzi Husayn Hammad, chairman of the Atomic Energy Agency, as saying that 230 million Egyptian pounds have been earmarked to build a new 22-megawatt reactor to supplement a 30-year-old 2-megawatt research reactor.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Message Views UN Resolution

LD1903220992 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent a message to kings, presidents, princes, and sultans concerning the resolution circulated by the United States, Britain, and France at the United Nations. The text of the message reads:

Thrusting the seventh chapter into the resolution is one of the biggest distortions of the UN Charter, the most severe case of belittling the international community; and the most hideous, crude falsification, which is scornful of all. This is because the chapter deals with the threat to world peace and aggression. This is what threatens Libya; not the United States, Britain, or France, which resort to such action because of two suspected persons. Even Libya did not object to their being questioned, tried and punished if they were found guilty by any Libyan, mixed, neutral, or international court.

What are the justifications for passing a UN Security Council resolution, even if a simple one? What do you think of a resolution which will prevent millions of foreign workers in Libya from contacting their families and their homelands, even by air mail? All contacts between embassies accredited to Libya and their home countries would be severed, even the diplomatic pouch.

If the world accepts such a distortion of the Charter, and accepts the passing of such a resolution, the world will have changed into a world of children and simple-minded people. If we are not such people we should leave New York, extolling mercy for the United Nations and saying farewell to it, as we did to the League of Nations. It is very clear that the issue is not a legal one, nor a simple incident, but a new stage of colonizing the Third World.

Legal Editor on Resolution

LD1903195292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA)—In the past two days, Britain, the United States, and France have circulated a draft resolution in the UN corridors, imposing restrictive [qasriyah] measures on the Great Jamahiriyah. The preamble of the draft resolution says that the Security Council is acting on the basis of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

JANA legal affairs editor, commenting on the text of the draft resolution, says:

Thrusting the seventh chapter into the resolution is one of the biggest distortions of the UN Charter; the most severe case of belittling the international community; and the most hideous, crude falsification, which is scornful of all. This is because the chapter deals with the threat to world peace and aggression. This is what threatens Libya; not the United States, Britain, or France, which resort to such action because of two suspected persons. Even Libya did not object to their being questioned, tried, and punished if they were found guilty by any Libyan, mixed, neutral, or international court.

What are the justifications for passing a UN Security Council resolution, even if a simple one? What do you think of a resolution which will prevent millions of foreign workers in Libya from contacting their families and their homelands, even by air mail? All contacts between embassies accredited to Libya and their home countries would be severed, even the diplomatic pouch.

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Envoy to UN Comments on 'Extreme Pressure'

LD1903181792 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The United Nations, al-Rabia [March] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Great Jamahiriyah's representative to the United Nations confirmed that the draft resolution put forward by America, Britain, and France which would impose draconian measures on Libya does not reflect the [words indistinct] the Security Council but only expresses the wishes of the three countries which hope to [word indistinct] it.

The representative wondered how these three countries claimed that they are fighting [word indistinct] international terrorism while at the same time they don't consider that the ban on selling civilian airline spare parts is in itself a type of terrorism enacted against a small country and which deprive it of the right to develop itself.

JANA's New York correspondent learned that America, Britain and France are applying pressure on the member countries at the Security Council to coerce them to except the resolution drawn up by the three countries which demands that draconian measures be taken against Libya within the ongoing unjust colonialist campaign which not only targets the Arab-Libyan people but the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

In a news item sent from the United Nations headquarters the correspondent made it clear that the members of the Security Council are feeling extremely concerned about the extreme pressure being exerted on them by the ambassadors and representatives of America, Britain and France to coerce them into voting in favour of this outrageous resolution on the basis that Libya has not responded to Security Council Resolution 731—a matter which has no basis in fact.

JANA's political editor commented on the errors committed by the three countries in their intepretation of Resolution 731 saying that the relevant resolution calls on Libya to co-operate in the legal investigation in arriving at a solution to the current crisis betwen the Great Jamahiriyah on the one side and America, Britain and France on the other side adding that Libya followed up what she was supposed to according to her civilised duty. She requested that the case be referred to an international judicial, objective investigation

She also confirmed the lack of legitimacy and legality in handing over her nationals to one of the three relevant countries since that sets a dangerous precedent and bypasses and contravenes international law and treaties as well as the United Nations Charter and international legitimacy.

JANA's political editor warned the three relevant countries that the Libyan-Arab people are in the vanguard of the civilised peoples which would never welcome any draconian measures which are well known to be unjust measures which cannot be backed-up by any logic or reasoning or law. The only law upon which it is based is that of force, hegemony and tyranny which had hoped to [word indistinct] will on the world. However this failed in the face of the will and steadfastness of the people and was relegated to the dustbin of history.

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Delighted' With South Africa Vote

LD1903143392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0905 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA)—JANA has learned that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, is delighted with the outcome of the South African referendum on President de Klerk's program.

Over 60 percent of the voters favored President de Klerk's reform program, which puts all South African citizens on an equal footing in terms of the rights of citizenship. This program will ensure that racial discrimination is liquidated and that the right of all citizens to exercise a democratic life is established. Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great September revolution, is pleased with and supports this program.

Sudan

Opposition—Iran, Ethiopia Aiding State Forces

NC2003085492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Mar 92 p 9

[Text] In a statement released the day before yesterday, the Democratic National Grouping [al-Tajammu' al-Watani al-Dimuqrati] emphasized that the Islamic Front regime for its military expedition in southern Sudan received military aid and weapons valued at $350 million, Iranian guarantees, and 800 personnel from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corp, who are taking part in the raging conflict. The statement also emphasized that approximately 10,000 Iranian soldiers are en route to Sudan to take part in the war.

The statement regretted the Ethiopian authorities' aid to the Islamic Front regime. This aid included participation by Ethiopian forces in battles and opening Ethiopian territory to Islamic Front forces to attack positions of the John Garang-led Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

'Intervention by Libyan Aircraft' Cited

NC2003112092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Mar 92 p 9

[Excerpt] At a news conference last Thursday the Sudanese Democratic National Grouping disclosed the dimensions of the scheme by the Islamic Front and its military militia in the war raging in southern Sudan. The grouping's leaders noted that southern nationals in cities and villages now in range of artillery and bomber aircraft are threatened with the mass annihilation of their women and children. They stated that it has become clear that foreign forces—Libyan, Ethiopian, and Iranian—are aiding the government forces in the fighting, as well as their military support operations and facilities.

The Democratic National Grouping appealed to international public opinion to take note of what is happening in southern Sudan to completely exterminate men, women, and children.

Amin Makki Madani, Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, and Faruq Abu-'Isa spoke at the conference in Cairo, which was attended by a number of the group's leaders and Arab and foreign news agency correspondents.

The news conference highlighted the following main points:

1. Intervention by Libyan aircraft piloted by Libyan and Sudanese officers. These aircraft bombed villages located on the government forces' road and killed hundreds of women and children.

2. Ethiopia opened its borders and a 1,500-strong Islamic Front force advanced 150 miles into Ethiopian territory from Damazin and Pochala on the Sudanese border in an arc-shaped movement backed by Ethiopian tanks, armored personnel carriers, and munitions in an attempt to cut the SPLA's supply lines across Kenyan territory.

3. Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps members in the operations area operated the artillery and missiles that the al-Bashir government obtained from Iran, and other technical equipment for which the Sudanese Army has received no training. This affirms that these forces participated directly with government forces under the slogan of fighting infidels and Crusaders to establish the state of Islam.

4. Issaias Afwerki [secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front], whom 'Umar al-Bashir recently visited in Asmara, provided a large quantity of arms and ammunition which were transported across Ethiopian territory to the assembly points of the Sudanese Government forces. [passage omitted]

Article Criticizes State's Failure To Hold Prices

JN1903174492 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 17 Mar 92 p 12

[Article by Dawud al-Farhan: "We Trust, But!"]

[Text] We do not want to believe that the state is unable to control prices.

We do not want to believe that the government has forgotten its promises to fight high prices.

We do not want to believe that the "mafia" of merchants, brokers, and the rich men of the blockade are stronger than the state.

We do not want to believe that this "mafia" does not fear the law, punishment, threats, and intimidation.

We do not want to believe that state officials are fully aware of prices but do not want to take action.

We do not want to believe that some officials do nothing to combat high prices except for calling for people to quit buying things.

We do not want to believe that we must wait for a release from this suffering to come from the UN Security Council.

We do not want to believe that rich people are the only ones who have the right to live.

We do not want to believe that the poor have nothing to do but watch and become aggrieved.

We do not want to believe that this is the real situation.

We trust the authority of the state, respect its men, abide by its laws, believe in its slogans, sing its songs, and support it.

We had imagined that when the Interior Ministry decides to set the price of any food, that no one would dare violate this. What happened, however, is that the Interior Ministry decided to set the price of mutton at 16 dinars per kg, the price of beef at 14 dinars per kg, and the price of an egg tray at 21 dinars. No one sticks to these prices, however. The Interior Ministry knows this all too well but remains silent. The economic security men also know this very well but remain silent, and we know this well, but still we buy.

If the government believes that the consciences of merchants, brokers, and the rich men of the blockade will awake, then it is walking in a fancy land. Those people ridicule any talk about conscience, patriotism, sacrifice, social solidarity, and the unjust blockade. In fact, with the blockade they have found their golden opportunity to pile up millions and to slaughter the people by striking at their jugular vein.

We have become sick of talking about high prices. Repeating such talk is the same as blowing into a bag with holes. There is nothing new in the market but high prices. These high prices are not linked to religious occasions and national days. They are also not linked to the fluctuating price of the dollar or the forces of supply and demand. However, they are an arrogant and arbitrary type of daily high prices in face of which all theories of economics, inflation, and liquidity collapse. If the people can live without luxuries because of high prices, they cannot live without many basic needs such as food, households, or their sons' needs. This is a slaughterhouse. Here they skin the people in the open and sell our large intestines right before the eyes of the government.

And now, shall we ask the simple citizen to carry a radio to follow the UN Security Council's sessions and the statements of Bush, Major, Ringo, Rambo, and General Electric? Shall we recite Koranic verses every time we go to the market to buy cauliflower? Shall we put our heads and our children's hearts on the tables of the rich men of the blockade whenever the time to break the fast approaches? Shall we blame those who sold some of the public sector's facilities to corruptors? Shall we ask the government for a solution, or shall it ask us, as usual, to tighten our belts?

Is it enough for us to hear the song of "the circumstances which, or the blockade that" every time we open our mouths to protest?

We are looking for a solution which has nothing to do with the UN Security Council and its U.S. and Zionist resolutions. The solution starts with setting prices at their current levels. This is the least that can be done because if prices continue to go up at devilish rates, then this means that we will have no choice but to sell our clothes and bang our heads against the wall.

Frankly speaking, the people want theorizing, slogans, songs, and rallies. What they need more, however, is to live in dignity. They are ready to starve to death in defense of Iraq on one condition: namely, that all the bloodsuckers of the rich, the profit-seeking people, brokers, and all those who have a feather in their cap should make the sacrifice with them.

RCC Strips Retired Personnel of Privileges

JN1703090392 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] AL-THAWRAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided that whoever resigns from the service or retires at his own request shall not enjoy the financial privileges enjoyed by the friends of leader President Saddam Husayn. The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC

Decree 55

Date: 7 Ramadan 1412 hegira, corresponding to 11 March 1992

Decree:

Taking cognizance of the provisions of paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. He who resigns from the service or retires at his own request shall not enjoy the financial privileges granted to the friends of leader President Saddam Husayn.

2. The provisions of this decree shall be effective as of the date it is published in the official gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Saddam Adviser Discusses Lessons of Desert Storm

JN1603165392 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 92 p 3

[Article by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, former minister of information and culture and currently an adviser to Saddam Husayn: "The Enemies' Intentions and the Leadership's Calculations in Hard Circumstances"]

[Text] Writing during the current circumstances is important, especially on political issues and the running conflict between us and U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Writing in this field now is like sitting close to a fire: It burns you if you get too close, but warms you if you keep a short distance away. Writing, so to speak, is like a chemical test in which the color of a solution changes according to the temperature. The results, right or wrong, depend on the temperature and the substances used in the chemical reaction.

An undue rise or drop in temprature could yield wrong results. To apply this equation to political issues, the writer must take into consideration some extremely important issues, which are truth and how to warn people against exaggeration and the raising of false alarms, and against overoptimism and deeming as unimportant matters which could sometimes prove crucial. Communicating truth to people, when it gives people a higher degree of immunity, is important. It is also important to put the people in the picture through facts and prepare them for what is required.

It is important to convey facts without exaggeration so that people will not panic like, for example, what happened as a result of the announcements on the state of emergency and the evacuation which were made before the 30-state aggression.

At any rate, we must tell the people that the enemies tried and continue to try to reach their minds in order to confuse them, change their orientation and patterns of thought, create new convictions and orientations in public opinion, score gains in terms of morale and clarity of vision, and achieve the final objective of the U.S. and Zionist planners. These have been employed against us in all forms and at the highest levels, accompanied by the military chapter which was represented by the Iraq-Iran war and the U.S.-led 30-state aggression in the great duel, the Mother of Battles.

Therefore, what is taking place is neither new nor unexpected. Nor is it outside our people's ability to counter the psychological warfare and its results, if it ever achieves its objectives, with high alertness and prepardness for the possibilities of a confrontation that would bury the conspiracy, and to make the arrows of the enemy break on the great Iraqi people's solid wall and legendary ability to absorb crises. The Iraqi people are capable of confronting psychological warfare; defending great Iraq against the infidels, arrogance, and all forms of aggression; and resisting the storms from whatever direction. Then the enemy conspiracy and evil actions against us would fail.

We waged the battle against the enemies, particularly the United States, the evil 30-state alliance, and the Gulf rulers, who opened the treasures of Croesus, Hubal [an ancient Arabian god], and others. These sides, which were also supported by the money of Japan and Germany and by the huge military capabilities of the three nuclear powers, failed to achieve their goals. Any fair person will greatly appreciate the unique leadership of leader Saddam Husayn, who commanded the battle and achieved results that stunned the world in terms of military confrontation and dealing with the chapter of treason and treachery during which Iran seriously supported the traitors inside the country. We say that all these capabilities were expected and that Iraq and its historic leadership knew that the United States and its allies were strong militarily and materially. The leadership also did not rule out that oil money would be used against us, although the leadership's calculations were governed by principles. Was not right on our side?

If we were right, all these forces would not be able to change leader Saddam Husayn's "no" to these forces, to this tyranny, and to the infidels.

Do we all not remember that we talked to our people about the possibility of a nuclear strike against Baghdad and that we made plans to confront that nuclear strike?

All our people prepared themselves to confront that possibility and that risk for the sake of principles and great Iraq, which wanted to remain lofty and which refused to bow to anyone except God.

All these possibilities and their background and motives prompted the United States and its allies to confront Iraq, which had become a major material power and a power stimulating Third World countries.

This leadership, which is represented by leader symbol Saddam Husayn, is known for its psychological and principled characteristics, its legitimate ambition to liberate Palestine, its seeking to build a new Arab order based on the fair distribution of wealth between the rich and the poor, and its calling for the departure of foreign forces from the Arab region. Leader Saddam Husayn put

forward several political concepts during the Amman summit conference and the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad in May 1990, as well as other concepts that he wanted to realize, including the Pan-Arab declaration launched on 8 February 1980.

Therefore, expectations were borne out by the calculations. For all the threats to resume the aggression against Iraq and the accompanying media clamor, we state with confidence and without any hesitiation that the people have for years now grown accustomed to these media campaigns. They rise and fall in the manner of a stock market. However, they are now known because they have to do with Bush's election crisis and the plight of Fahd and his family, which is torn by internal differences that are no longer a secret. They imagine that aggression and psychological warfare against Iraq can reorient the attention of public opinion in the United States, Najd, and Hejaz toward Iraq.

We do not want to understate the amount of evil present in the minds of these renegades, but we would judge things by their motives and causes so that we can close any loopholes through which the enemy may infiltrate our flourishing house—Iraq. The coordination among the partners of the vicious alliance and the present and past contacts between Iran and the Gulf rulers all indicate that this time the plotting is taking a different form and dimension. In other words, there will be the same persons and roles, but the approach will not necessarily be the same as that of the Mother of Battles. It may take the form of infiltration from the countries ruled by traitors and agents, as happened in the page of treason and treachery. All these combined, however, will fail to match the power of the evil of the 30 nations.

They cannot muster the same force to match the arsenal of the United States and the evil alliance which assembled over half a million soldiers—otherwise estimated at 750,000—3,000 aircraft of various types, and an armada of long-range naval vessels which we stood up to with resolve and distinction. Our valiant forces kept their cool and their resources and regained their strength in no time and took up positions to defend great Iraq in the north, south, and center of the country.

Moreover, the spirit of the people today is different than their spirit under the circumstances of the aggression and the unjust psychological war during the major duel of the Mother of Battles. Notable things during the old circumstances were the power outages, the lack of fuel, and the shortage of food and services.

Furthermore, the building and the speedy reconstruction added a major national dimension to the people's spirit, imagination, creativity, and morale. The inattention which gave the arrows of treachery and treason a chance left a bitterness that will not occur again, God willing. The lessons of the Mother of Battles are not documents to be filed away in the archives but are rather for the people to learn the dangers of aggression, evil, and enemy conspiracies.

Those who failed to learn from the lessons of the showdown and the sacrifices we made in it deserve no national or leading role to play. There is no longer room for carelessness, exaggeration, or a lack of caution. When the people's energies are mobilized, when their determination is strengthened, and when they are informed of the facts and assigned roles, the forces of aggression cannot realize their evil objectives against Iraq and its people.

The enemies that came to the region and took Saudi Arabia's territory as a base for their forces said in the beginning that they were defending Saudi Arabia. When we faced them with the facts, they said they were defending the oil which Iraq was trying to control. They also said they came to defend U.S. lives and to defend and restore legitimacy to the Kuwaiti regime. But what will they say now if they plan a new aggression?

They are liars. They are still working against the Iraqis and their great experience. The unjust blockade against the people of Iraq is conclusive evidence that they are lying and are harboring evil intentions against Iraq and its people. Their current psychological war, trumpets, and threats fall within this context. Let us demonstrate solidarity and cohesion for the sake of great Iraq—Arabs and Kurds, young and old, men and women. We have right on our side, and we can confront them with the simplest weapons, even stones. We are the owners of the land, and no force can enter our country and carry out its evil objectives if we invoke our history, heroism, and the souls of our martyrs, which are watching us and our actions from the heavenly paradise. Everyone of us is certainly aspiring to nothing more than becoming one of these martyrs, a lantern illuminating Iraq's skies.

Everything is tolerable if Iraq is safe, if dignity is safeguarded, and if honor is protected under the righteous son and the intelligent knight, Saddam Husayn.

Opposition Leaders Agree on New Constitution

JN1703111492 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Mar 92 p 21

[By Amin Mahran from Cairo]

[Text] The Iraqi opposition has reached agreement concerning the form of the Iraqi regime after the collapse of the current ruling regime. The opposition has also agreed on the principles of the new regime.

Dr. Yahya al-Jamal, an Egyptian authority on constitutions, has participated in drafting the principles of the constitution.

AL-BAYAN sources in the "international committee for a free Iraq" said that the committee held a meeting in London of a number of Iraqi opposition leaders and constitutional experts to discuss the form of the political system in Iraq following the collapse of Saddam

Husayn's regime, as well as the principles of the constitution proposed for the new regime. The meeting made the following recommendations:

First: The political system in the transitional stage —The establishment of a provisional government which will be entrusted with making the agreed upon changes in the form of government. This government could be established on any part of Iraq's liberated territory. Through this the government will assume its international responsibilities based on international law. Later it will work to mobilize the support of the people and the armed forces. At the same time it will try to expand the liberated areas and gain international support. —Holding free elections under UN auspices. This step will become urgent immediately after the collapse of the dictator regime. A proposal was made to hold elections now in the liberated Kurdish areas. Participants in the meeting, however, expressed their desire to hold serious discussions with the nationalist figures in Iraq so that this step will not lead to further splits in the country or to regional repercussions as a result of this action. —The need to resume negotiations with the international parties to settle the issue of Iraq's sovereignty, which is being exposed to immense pressure as a result of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687. The conferees emphasized the need for the negotiations to come up with specific measures to protect national sovereignty following the collapse of the dictator regime. —The conferees expressed their extreme concern about the full implementation of Resolution 688, by ending all forms of repression, protecting the Iraqi people, and respecting human rights. The Iraqi people have suffered a great deal from the crimes of the ruling Iraqi regime, and therefore they deserve every type of assistance to play their role on the internal and international levels.

Second: Constitutional principles —The new constitution must abide by political pluralism, by the transfer of power peacefully and constitutionally, the independence of powers with the existence of an effective system to maintain balance among these powers, and by protecting democracy through a qualified and independent legal system. —The conferees acknowledge that the proposed constitution will not be an effective custodian of democracy unless it recognizes the cultural and historical characteristics of each part of the country. —The new regime should remove all forms of sectarianism, discrimination in national rights, and the privileges which allow the military institution to usurp constitutional rights. It also should decrease the number of institutions that can carry out unlimited repression. —It has been decided that this committee should complete its preparation of the constitution and the political system before the general congress of the opposition in April.

The following participated in the meeting:

Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum, Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Amin, Dr. Hasan Shalabi, 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Adhri, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ulwi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, Majid al-Yadayn, Sadiq al-'Atya, Shaykh Mahmud Muhammad 'Ali, Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, Mrs. 'Aydah 'Asran, Dr. Riyad 'Ubayd 'Isa, Dr. Tariq 'Ali Salih, Dr. Shalabi al-Hakim, Muhammad Kubbah, Dr. Muhyi al-Khatib, Ghanim Jawid, Mahmud al-Hashemi, Mrs. Tamara Daghistani, and 'Aziz al-Yasin.

Among the constitution experts were:

Edward Moretime, editor with the FINANCIAL TIMES; Dr. Yahya al-Jamal; Dr. Peter Slim, head of the law section at the University of London's Oriental and African Studies Department; Dr. Shelley Melat of the same university; and Andrew Harding.

Kurdish Radio Reports State Military Movements

NC1903181692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdish Revolution Radio in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The regime has placed Army units in Karkuk on alert. Tanks (?were deployed in Irbil). [Words indistinct] we have also received the following news: Large Army units estimated at three brigades were seen in (Bani Maqam), near (Santamawi). Two other brigades were seen moving toward Jabal. Another brigade yesterday advanced toward [place-word indistinct].

Regime Deploys Troops In, Around Karbala'

NC1803151692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Karbala' is living in an atmosphere of terrorism after the tyrant's security authorities deployed a large number of its members, in civilian clothing, in the city. Vehicles of the security forces and the local police, who are in charge of watching and searching visitors, are patrolling the streets.

According to travelers coming from the city a large number of military forces, including infantry brigades and tank and medium- and large-caliber artillery battalions, are deployed on the outskirts of the afflicted city.

Comparison of 'Aziz Address to Security Council

JN1403162592

Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1148 GMT on 12 March carries the 50-minute announcer-read "full text" of the address to the UN Security Council by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. This report has been compared with the Baghdad INA in Arabic version subheadlined "'Aziz Speech to Security Council" published in the 12 March edition of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 17. The radio version contained no editorial notations such as "'Aziz said" or "'Aziz added." It also cleared the following indistinct passages in the INA version and added the following passages to the INA version:

Page 17, column two, paragraph seven, sentence one, make read: Mr. President: This is the.... (adding greeting)

Page 18, column one, paragraph one continuing from previous page, sentence three, make read: Here I quote Mr. Ahtisaari, the UN secretary.... (providing name)

Paragraph six, only sentence, make read: ...Council had drawn up in its previous resolutions and their declared objectives. [new paragraph]

Iraq, as an.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph seven, sentence one, make read: ...Charter, international law, standard UN procedures, and the principles.... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph nine, last sentence, make read: ...have been implemented. [new paragraph]

Mr. President: While I request.... (adding greeting) Column two, paragraph one, sentence one, make read: The weapons which the UN Security Council has prohibited Iraq from possessing have been completely destroyed, and the remainder of these weapons, particularly in the field of chemical missiles and equipment, are being destroyed in turn under the supervision of the inspection teams and within the framework of a plan on which there is no dispute between the competent Iraqi authorities and these teams. All the equipment.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph one, sentence three, make read: ...be used. From April 1991 to February 1992.... (correcting month)

Paragraph one, sentence five, make read: ...prior notification to various locations throughout all of Iraq's territory, and used the most sophisticated means of inspection, communications, surveillance, and transportation, including helicopters which.... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph two, sentence two, make read: ...these teams totaled 14,000 items and included parts.... (clearing indistinct figure)

Paragraph two, sentence three, make read: ...than 270,000 items including various pieces of equipment, the remains of.... (clearing indistinct words)

Page 19, column one, paragraph one, penultimate sentence, make read: There are currently 3,594 Kuwaitis in Iraq.... (correcting figure)

Paragraph two, sentence two, make read: ...proven that 223 of those included.... (correcting figure)

Paragraph three, last sentence, make read: ...to verify facts. [new paragraph]

While here I have learned that as of 10 March Iraqi newspapers have started publishing the names of the so-called missing persons once a week and for the next four weeks. [new paragraph] (providing additional material)

Page 19, column two, paragraph two, sentence one, make read: ...the destruction of buildings and the scattering about and destruction of documents and other.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Page 20, column one, only sentence, make read: ...resolutions containing provisions that are more extremist than the provisions.... (clearing indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph four, only sentence make read: ...provisions of paragraph 8 of Resolution 687.... (changing "C" to "8")

Paragraph seven, sentence one, make read: ...situation will be presented to the Council so that this issue will be removed from the circle of accusations, recriminations, and misunderstandings, and from the tendentious political.... (clearing queried word, providing additional material, rewording for clarity)

Paragraph seven, last sentence, make read: ...and serious manner. I would like to inform you of our readiness to begin this as of today, if the special committee and the IAEA are prepared for it. [new paragraph]

On the issue.... (supplying an additional material)

Paragraph eight, sentence one, make read: ...are prepared to cooperate completely, but due consideration.... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph eight, penultimate sentence, make read: ...its intentions to strike at and kill the Iraqi political.... (supplying additional material)

Page 21, column one, paragraph one, sentence one, make read: ...flights over the city of Baghdad alone, each flight lasting between three and.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph one, sentence two, make read: ...in one month at the beginning of.... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph one, penultimate sentence, make read: ...to end these surveillance war missions [al-istitla'at al-harbiyah]. This issue must.... (rewording, providing vernacular)

Paragraph two, sentence three, make read: ...modified for other uses that are banned in accordance with.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph four, sentence one, make read: ...we would like to present some points. There is an extremist approach in interpreting paragraph B of Article 9 of.... (changing "2" to "B," rewording for clarity)

Column two, paragraph one, sentence one, make read: ...all the equipment which it proposes to destroy or to turn into harmless equipment. It can do this easily because it has compiled an inventory of all the equipment and devices that are connected with Resolution 687 and.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph two, sentence three, make read: ...current structure, cannot carry out this task, specialized experts can.... (rewording for clarity)

Paragraph three, last sentence, make read: ...committee absolute authority to issue resolutions means linking the fate of the Iraqi people's property, and indeed forever linking their fate, sovereignty, and security to a side that does not exist in the UN Charter, and without giving Iraq any say in this. Is this the aim of the Security Council resolutions? [new paragraph]

I would like to add that the Council's understanding of the principles and points that we have presented will lead to an earnest and equitable application of Resolutions 707 and 715, thus leading to the Council's satisfaction. [new paragraph]

What is the.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording, providing additional material)

Page 22, column one, paragraph four, sentence one, make read: ...contribution to human civilization and the landmarks.... (clearing indistinct word)

Column two, paragraph one, sentence one, make read: ...and to comply. Iraq is implementing them month after month. I have presented.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Paragraph one, sentence three, make read: ...on sound bases stemming from the principles of.... (clearing indistinct words)

Paragraph one, last sentence, make read: ...its internal affairs and include suspect political objectives.... (rewording for clarity)

Last paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...dealing with Iraq. [new paragraph]

Mr. President, this speech was prepared before this meeting. During the meeting I heard your statement and what the respected Council members had to say. I would like to comment on some concerns which were expressed by the members. I leave it to you to make whatever decision that you deem proper concerning my position. (supplying additional material)

Levi: 'War to the Bitter End' Against 'Beasts'

TA2003081092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Statement by Foreign Minister David Levi at Ben-Gurion Airport at state ceremony to mark the arrival aboard Argentine President Carlos Menem's private aircraft of the bodies of two Israeli women killed in the explosion at Israel's Buenos Aires Embassy on 17 March—live]

[Text] [Levi] Li'ora and Zehava, the Almighty will avenge your deaths. This is not how the Foreign Ministry and your friends and relatives foresaw your return home. No, it is not. You left the country in the service of the state, to represent it. You went to show the flag, you, the salt of the earth, the fruit of the great hope, from Jerusalem and Hadera, the bringers of peace, unprotected from danger, acting according to international rules, without weapons for self-defense, to face the beasts, whose aim here and elsewhere is to harm the state and its citizens: men, women, and children. These are people blinded with hatred, filled with cruelty, and any comparison between them and beasts in the woods is an insult to the animal world. These people are guided by cruelty which knows no limit, and their aim is to shed blood. We will not utter too many words today, because words cannot express the mourning and anger we all feel here over these despicable murders. In the coming days, we will again be accompanying our dear ones, who are returning home lifeless from their missions. That is how it was destined. We are at war with the Amalekites; that is our pledge. Our hand is stretched out in peace to those who believe in and dream about peace, and to those filled with hatred, we have only one answer: War to the bitter end.

To the Karmon and Zehavi families, that is our pledge, that is our duty, and we will fulfill it. That, of course, cannot bring back your and our beloved ones, but it can perhaps achieve retribution for their blood and prevent the blood of others from being shed. We are all in mourning, we are all one family, we are all suffering pain and anger. Blessed be their memories.

'No Concrete Evidence' on Identity of Attacker

TA1903192792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Excerpts] A man claiming to speak for the Islamic Jihad phoned a Western news agency in Beirut today and denied the organization was involved in the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. Iran also denied any connection with the incident. An Israeli official said there is no concrete evidence so far on the identity of the attackers. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

Islamic Jihad's announcement in Beirut yesterday claiming responsibility for the attack in Argentina confirmed what most Israeli officials already believed. But, an official said this evening, that there is still no concrete evidence on who is responsible for the attack. [passage omitted]

An Israeli official who preferred to remain unnamed said Israel is taking yesterday's announcement seriously, although neither it nor the denial constitute evidence. The official said, however, that the method used in the car bombing do bear the imprint of the Islamic Jihad.

Other sources in Jerusalem are reacting with skepticism to the Iranian announcement that it was not involved in the attack. The Islamic Jihad does not have the organizing power to pull off such a large-scale attack, the sources say, without the help of a foreign embassy in Buenos Aires. The sources speculated that the Islamic Jihad denial might have been meant to prevent an Israeli reprisal attack.

Moda'i Sees 'Devious and Unfair' U.S. Policy

TA1903163192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Although the close U.S. presidential race has still not noticeably affected Israel's standing with the U.S. Administration, one must remember that the contest is just beginning. Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i expressed that opinion today, adding that he was confident his ministry would find alternatives to the loan guarantees Israel had requested from the U.S. Administration. Our correspondent Ro'i Grinwald reports.

[Begin recording] [Grinwald] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i today said Israel could use the close U.S. presidential race to its advantage and promote Israel's interests to the U.S. Administration.

[Moda'i] So far, we have not discerned any signs that the tough, uphill struggle between the presidential candidates has significantly affected their attitude in the direction we, or our fellow Jews, desire. The struggle, however, is only beginning.

[Grinwald] In his speech to the members of the Contractors Association, the finance minister sharply attacked the U.S. Administration for its handling of Israel's request for guarantees.

[Moda'i] What is so infuriating is their devious and unfair way of avoiding granting us the guarantees.

[Grinwald] Moda'i also rejected U.S. claims about Israeli arms exports. We have been falsely accused, the finance minister said. Moda'i reiterated his confidence that his ministry would find alternatives for the guarantees that were rejected on the terms Israel had requested.

[Moda'i] I have received permission to examine the matter, but not to do anything. Today I can tell you with even more confidence, although not with absolute certainty, that I have good reason to believe we could make up through alternative sources any sum deducted from the U.S. guarantees.

[Grinwald] Moda'i used his meeting with the contractors to ask them to vote for the new party he intends to head. [end recording]

Moda'i in Secret Talks With West Bank Figures

TA1903123192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Mar 92 p A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i yesterday toured the West Bank as the guest of Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories. The visit was held under a veil of secrecy.

Lieutenant Colonel Hanan Rubin, Gen. Rothschild's spokesman, recently revealed that the major general contacted the finance minister and suggested a tour of the West Bank. The visit was held yesterday, leaving the media uninformed.

In Ramallah, Moda'i met with industrialists, including Daniel 'Isa, one of Faysal al-Husayni's associates.

Despite the fact that the finance minister's visit to the West Bank was termed secret, and although he and the coordinator of government activities in the territories agreed not to issue any messages about it, it has been learned that Moda'i was accompanied by his economic advisers. Gen. Rothschild was accompanied by Brigadier General Gad Zohar, head of the West Bank Civil Administration, and Colonel Ya'aqov Zohar, Ramallah governor.

Moda'i first visited the Civil Administration, where he was briefed on economic and defense issues by administration officers and Col. Zohar. Moda'i then left for Ramallah, where he met Daniel 'Isa, who owns the Club factory for soft drinks and advises Faysal al-Husayni on economic issues. Palestinian sources in the West Bank reported that in the past 'Isa published in AL-QUDS a detailed plan for the establishment of a supreme economic council which would conduct the economic affairs of the residents of the territories independently of Israel. It has been learned that Moda'i and 'Isa held a long conversation, but it is not clear whether the above plan was broached.

This was an irregular visit by a senior minister, especially by Moda'i, who arrived for a meeting with figures affiliated with the Palestinian leadership in the territories. Col. Zohar refused to comment on the visit. The Finance Ministry spokeswoman reported that the visit was indeed held without the media present. Col. Rubin reported that the purpose of the visit was to examine and to get acquainted with the Civil Administration's economic operations.

Palestinian sources told HA'ARETZ last night that the visit by the Israeli minister was aimed at examining the possibility of the territories' economic independence from Israel. The sources noted that it was the first meeting they have had with a senior Israeli minister other than Defense Minister Arens. Both the finance minister's and Gen. Rothschild's spokesmen refused to comment on Moda'i's discussions.

Eytan's Return to Agriculture Ministry Delayed

TA2003055992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tzomet Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan will not after all be back as agriculture minister this coming Sunday [22 March]. Although he withdrew his resignation when the Knesset approved the direct election of prime ministers, his reappointment is not on the agenda of the forthcoming session. It is understood that senior Likud officials have asked for time to hold consultations.

Poll Gives Labor 41, Likud 37 Knesset Seats

TA2003120392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Mar 92 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll conducted by Dahaf Institute under the directorship of Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: Were the elections held now, what party would you vote for? (results in Knesset seats)

Labor	41
Meretz	12
NRP	5
Agudat Yisra'el	4
SHAS	4
Arab parties	5
Likud	37
Tzomet	4
Moledet	4
Tehiya	2
Degel Hatora	2

[Key to table abbreviations: NRP—National Religious Party; SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim]

The poll, which was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, comprised 506 telephone interviewees constituting a representative sample of the Jewish population.

No Joint Tehiya-Moledet List in Elections

TA1603052592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Tehiya and Moledet parties have decided not to join forces in the upcoming Knesset elections, after talks between the parties broke down. At a meeting yesterday, Moledet demanded that the Tehiya accept its stated policy of transfer first, then imposing Israeli law

on all of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Tehiya insisted that imposing Israeli law in the territories was the most important issue.

Amnon Rubinstein To Head Shinuy Faction List

TA1503195592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] The Shinuy council this evening chose Professor Amnon Rubinstein to head the party's Knesset list, with Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Poraz in the second position. He will be followed by Prof. Yehoshu'a Porat. Rubinstein, however, will be placed only third on the joint list made up of the three left-wing Knesset factions. MK Poraz will be seventh on the joint list, while Porat will be in the 12th or 13th position, our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports.

Gazans Barred From Israel 'Until Further Notice'

TA1903192992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Arab residents of the Gaza Strip will be barred from entering Israel from tomorrow morning and until further notice. The defense establishment decided to take this step following the terrorist attack in Yafo two days ago. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that over 31,000 workers from the Gaza Strip left for work in Israel today.

U.S. Urged To Fight Likud 'Propaganda Campaign'

TA1903131292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Mar 92 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Not a Natural Disaster]

[Text] For the first time since the "reassessment," Henry Kissinger's brainchild, the United States has presented the citizens of Israel with a clear and sharp message: You have to choose between continued occupation (the settlements) and the advantages derived from the special relationship with us. And indeed, in its attempt to get the Israeli Government or public opinion to change their order of priorities, the Bush administration has not chosen its means of pressure very fastidiously.

The global changes which stemmed from the termination of the cold war and from the economic crisis on the eve of the U.S. elections have greased the American vise. Israel's excessive use of the myth of Jewish power last September reduced its effectiveness and facilitated the administration's task in Congress.

And yet Yitzhaq Shamir still refuses to acknowledge the option with which he, as the one responsible for the national agenda, was presented. Moreover, in an aggressive television interview, he insists that if we adhere to present policy, "the other side will change its path." His confidant Minister Ehud Olmert disdainfully rejects the assertion that settlements are the source of all the trouble, asserting that tomorrow the administration will find a new pretext to mistreat Israel. Some of his colleagues—not necessarily the militant ones—explain that what we have here is a President who is devoid of any sentiment or commitment to Israel and a secretary of state who scorns no measure that can take us back to the 1967 borders and to a redivision of Jerusalem. Both are only sensitive to the smell of crude oil, and neither gives a hoot about Jews being murdered in Yafo or Buenos Aires. Some add a touch of anti-Semitism to this brew. After that, all that is left to do is to stick both legs deep in the ground and to wait for the evil tide to pass.

In talks with colleagues, Shamir assures them that if the Americans realize on 23 June that the Israeli public is not interested in a change, namely, if the Likud wins the elections, Bush will have no choice but "to get off our back." Shamir believes that with so little time left before his challenging confrontation with Bill Clinton, the President will be unable to afford to maltreat Israel and to upset the Jews. Shamir wants to win the elections, and right now, he has no interest in what his new government will be able to expect either from Bush in his second term or from a Democratic administration that is not committed to the package of assurances he had received for deigning to meet with his neighbors.

To get the guarantees, which have become a central issue in the Likud's rivalry with the Labor Party, Shamir has tried in vain to pull the strings of domestic U.S. politics. The democratic tradition of the United States prohibits any use of clout in domestic Israeli struggles—the more so since the Americans were advised that outside intervention would provoke the national pride of the Israeli voter.

This restriction has turned the United States into the punching bag of the right wing, which has had no qualms about instigating the Israeli public to give the finger to the Americans, who have turned their back on the victims of Arab terror. The Likud is counting on the unsophisticated Israeli voter who merely scans newspaper headlines that report the U.S. refusal to grant Israel the guarantees, and that quote senior Israeli officials denouncing the vicious anti-Israeli leaks and a former U.S. mayor telling about anti-Jewish verbal abuse in Washington's top echelons.

Relations with the United States are multifaceted. The attitude of U.S. administrations and Congress toward the Jews has been, for the most part, based on domestic political interests that are different from the interests underlying their attitude toward the State of Israel. That attitude is not necessarily evident in the relations between the administration in Washington and the current government in Jerusalem. While the Americans have successfully underscored the message that Israel should choose between the settlements (and all they imply) and the guarantees (and all that their refusal implies), the Americans have failed to persuade the average and the above-average Israeli that the United States remains their greatest and most important friend, and that if Shamir were to follow in Menahem Begin's

footsteps and freeze settlement activities for the duration of the peace talks, relations would return to normal and the guarantees would be granted.

We do not need administration spokesmen to tell us that if we elect Yitzhaq Rabin we would soon find out that all the global and domestic changes have not affected the basis of their commitment to our security and well-being and their aid to the Zionist enterprise. What the administration must do, however, is to counter the propaganda campaign being waged against the United States by the Israeli government. The U.S. Administration must make it absolutely clear that Shamir is not telling the truth when he talks about profound differences between Israel and the United States. It must say that the deep chasm between Jerusalem and Washington is not a natural disaster, but the result of the policy of a government that has for the first time run up against an administration that refuses to close what it considers "a window of opportunity" for the establishment of peace in this dangerous region.

Margaret Tutwiler's announcements are not enough to refute the right wing's old allegation, which feeds on Arab terror, that the world has ganged up against us. Moshe Arens appeared on all U.S. television networks this week, whereas Baker visited this country eight times, but never addressed us. Oddly enough, the nation that invented "public relations" is losing to the copywriters of the Likud and Tzomet.

UNIFIL Protests SLA Use of Human Shields

TA1703141192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] liaison officers have asked the Israel Defense Forces to use its influence on the South Lebanese Army [SLA] to make the latter stop forcing Lebanese villagers to march in front of SLA patrols on roads that are often booby-trapped by terrorists.

An officer from UNIFIL's Irish contingent told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that an investigation carried out by his men had revealed that on at least two occasions recently villagers from Tallusah were forced to march in front of SLA troops. Officials at SLA headquarters have categorically denied those reports. Hizballah leader Shaykh Nasrallah and Amal boss Nabih Birri met today and decided to cooperate to stop what they called the SLA's barbaric practice.

PFLP Urges Intifadah Command To Include Hamas

TA1903132792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] yesterday urged that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] be included in the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are not part of the intifadah leadership, and so far all PLO factions have opposed Hamas' joining it. Our correspondent believes that this new stand follows from the results of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce elections [in which Hamas won 10 out of 11 seats]. In a leaflet disseminated in Ramallah, the PFLP says there is a need to close the ranks against the true enemy. The leaflet also urges that the residents' needs be taken into consideration when strikes are declared. Sources in Ramallah reported that because of the struggle between Hamas and the PLO regarding business hours, many shop owners decided to ignore the instructions of both organizations.

Paper Comments on Possible Confederation Formula

JN1903150692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[Excerpts] Amman—Six years after the collapse of an accord on Jordanian-Palestinian political coordination based on confederal relations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking a return to a similar formula in the context of the ongoing Middle East negotiations.

PLO officials said the organisation had asked Jordan to claim sovereignty over the occupied territories on behalf of and alongside the Palestinians in the peace talks, which got off in Madrid in October.

Four rounds of Arab-Israeli talks have been held so far since Madrid, but little progress has been achieved on the key issues at stake in the Middle East conflict.

Jordanian officials and delegates to the negotiations said they were surprised by a series of Palestinian statements indicating that a confederation between Jordan and the State of Palestine proclaimed in 1988 could be announced soon.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said last week that a confederal union between Jordan and Palestine could be formally announced within one month, after a scheduled meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

"The principle of confederation between Jordan and Palestine is accepted, but Jordan has not yet reached the stage of announcing a confederation... It is premature," said one Jordanian official.

"We are puzzled and slightly dismayed by these unilateral statements by Palestinians... This complex issue (confederation) should be coordinated much more closely," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

Last year, Jordan studied but did not endorse an agreement that would pave the way for a confederation if and when a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The agreement has not yet been presented for discussion and vote in Parliament.

Analysts see statements by the Palestinians calling for confederation as a positive response to an implicit Jordanian warning, contained in four questions the Kingdom addressed to the PLO leadership earlier this month. One of the questions gave the PLO the choice between a detached Jordanian role limited to an endorsement of Palestinian demands, like the other Arab states engaged in the peace talks, or a more central Jordanian role in regaining the occupied territories based on Resolution 242.

A Jordanian delegate to the negotiations said the Palestinians had realised that Jordan was in a stronger legal position to claim the occupied territories and through the confederation mechanism the Palestinians do not have to cede total sovereignty to Jordan and both can claim the territories.

But according to Palestinian sources, the PLO is pressing for an announcement of the confederation because it fears losing influence in the occupied territories to Palestinian leaders there. More importantly, through taking the initiative on the confederation issue, the PLO hopes to regain lost political ground and play a strong role in the negotiations, the sources say.

"The main objective for Palestinian participation in the peace process is to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. If Jordan can achieve this goal, then Palestinians will support any action to achieve this end," said PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab.

Other analysts, justifying the PLO statements, say Jordan also has a great interest in pushing for the confederation in order to consolidate its active role in the negotiations and ensure that any solution will not conflict with its interests.

"If there is no confederation, then Jordan's territorial dispute with Israel will be limited to the 600 square kilometres of land occupied by the Israelis along the demarcation lines running down to the Jordan Valley," noted one analyst.

But Mr. 'Arafat is under immense pressure from various Palestinian factions, Syria and some countries opposed to the peace process not to cede sovereignty to Jordan, according to Palestinian officials. PLO factions are also divided on the issue and argue that it is premature for such a move at this stage. [passage omitted]

Observers say that the whole issue of confederation hinged on the outcome of the Israeli general elections in June and Washington's ability to secure Israel's acceptance of the principle of exchanging land for peace in line with Resolution 242. It also depends on reaching agreement on the final status of Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories in the context of the proposed confederation.

Without securing an Israeli acceptance of the foundations of the peace process, according to one observer, the confederation, like the Palestinian state proclaimed in Algiers in 1988, would be no more than a piece of paper that means very little on the ground.

Columnist Criticizes 'Hastiness' of Saudi Source

JN2003104892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Mar 92 p 18

["Landmarks" column by Dr. Nabil al-Sharif: "Calm Dialogue With the Responsible Saudi Source"]

[Excerpts] Had the responsible Saudi source been patient in its reaction, and had it exercised patience and wisdom

and adopted moral values, as His Majesty King Husayn did in answering the renowned American commentator on the so-called support for fundamentalist movements, the fraternal Saudi source's words would have been calmer and more controlled. Moreover, his words would have denied the opportunity to those who try to hamper all efforts to get our nation out of the bottleneck, and those who seek to keep us captive through fragmentation and dismemberment, which only benefits our enemies. [passage omitted]

We must whisper in the ear of the responsible Saudi source, which rushed to announce the listy of Saudi aid to Jordan for no reason. We do not deny this aid. Rather, we have long appreciated it and will always appreciate it. We would like to add, however, that this aid is not only an investment in Jordan's security and stability, but also in the security and stability of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the entire Arab heartland. Through its steadfastness, Jordan, which is stationed in the trenches of confrontation, not only protects its borders, but also protects the entire Arab heartland and defends the shield of the entire nation.

Therefore, the Saudi source's hastiness in announcing the aid list to Jordan (which we do not deny) was unjustified. Moreover, the source overlooked a fact which we do not think it forgot; namely, that the aforementioned aid also contributed to warding off any harm threatening Saudi Arabia itself, and was tantamount to an investment in the stability and security of the fraternal Kingdom.

Moreover, the boasting about favors to Jordan embodied in the fraternal Saudi source's statement runs contrary to the Koranic verse: O ye who believe! Cancel not your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injury.

We hope that the fraternal Saudi source will take note of these facts, and realize the dangers of being dragged by emotions, or falling into the perils of provocation and tension.

Iraq's 'Aziz Invites Zayd al-Rifa'i To Baghdad

JN1903082292 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 19 Mar 92 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has invited former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to visit Baghdad and meet with President Saddam Husayn. Al-Rifa'i accepted the invitation and promised to visit Baghdad after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

Zayd al-Rifa'i hosted a Ramadan dinner banquet in his house on Sunday [15 March], in honor of Tariq 'Aziz upon his return from New York. The banquet was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, former Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, Muhammad al-Sahhaf [Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs], and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Karami Discusses 'Political Sectarianism,' Media

NC1403220492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Report on a speech by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at a breakfast banquet organized by the Friends of the Handicapped Committee in Tripoli; date not given]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said he hopes that the government's measures will remedy the economic crisis, which he called a conspiracy.

[Begin Karami recording] Regrettably, we are living under the shadow of political sectarianism, which was entrenched by the al-Ta'if Accord. This agreement, which became a constitution, has a provision that says that in appointing people to top administrative positions, the posts should be distributed equally among Muslims and Christians. We have spent an entire year trying to settle matters amicably, and spare the public the consequences of ill feelings, one-upmanship, and chaos. We used ourselves as targets for these ill effects to spare the people, and attempted to make appointments without incurring costs that this homeland cannot afford to pay. Finally, we reached agreement—I am sorry to say this—to divide the posts. [applause]

This is the first basic step in making the administrative appointments. Next week, God willing, we will begin to implement this step. If, God forbid, it stumbles for any reason, and in light of the tragic administrative condition and the serious situation in which we are living, and whose responsibility we bear, nothing will remain but for me to submit this issue to the cabinet, so that it may decisively settle it. [end recording]

On reorganizing the media, the prime minister said:

[Begin Karami recording] The al-Ta'if Accord includes a provision for reorganizing the media. It is necessary to reorganize the media for the safety of journalists and this homeland. We told them: Criticize objectively as you wish. It is not right, however, to cast aspersions on everything and level accusations in an unrestricted manner. I will summon the justice minister and the Appeals Court prosecutor and ask them to appoint media prosecutors. All the accusations that are broadcast and published by the media must be investigated. If the accusation is true, the guilty party must be punished, regardless of his position. If the accusation is false, then airing it constitutes a crime against the homeland. [end recording]

New Department To Probe Media Allegations

NC1703212092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Accusations made by the media against state officials constitute one of the chief concerns of government leaders. Prime Minister 'Umar Karami announced today the formation of a department within the Information Ministry, whose task will be to summarize all accusations published by the media and investigate them.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami chaired a meeting today, at which the accusations aired by various media sources were discussed. Present at the meeting were Information Minister Dr. Albert Mansur; Press Doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki; 'Asim al-Jisr, deputy president of the Editors Union; Justice Minister Khatchig Babikian; and Appeals Court Prosecutor Maurice Khawwam.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister Karami said that everyone supports objectivity and guidance and opposes flattery, but pointed out that there are issues connected with the national good. He noted that certain accusations being leveled at government officials are harmful to the country both on the foreign and domestic fronts.

He declared: We will pursue the accused and the publisher.

Prime Minister Karami explained that a department will be formed within the Information Ministry to summarize newspaper, radio, and television reports. The summarized reports will be placed at the disposal of the public prosecutors to investigate any published or broadcast accusation.

Karami reaffirmed that he wishes to maintain responsible freedom of the press. He noted that all existing laws will be enforced in order to safeguard the national good.

Government 'Serious' on Security for Elections

NC1703184692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami clarified that the government will be serious in providing all the necessary security for parliamentary and municipal elections, within the framework of freedom. He assured the public that there is no threat of freedom being restricted. He confirmed that elections will be free and honest, and will express the will of the Lebanese people.

Defense Minister Michel al-Murr stressed the need for holding parliamentary elections this year. He said there should not be some members of parliament who are appointed and others who extend their term unilaterally. He considers it a mistake not to return to a popular base.

Karami Views Rise in Value of Dollar

NC1903175292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami clearly admitted that the government is unable to check the rise in the value of the dollar, which closed today at an average rate of 1,165 Lebanese pounds per dollar.

Asked about the reasons for the rise in the dollar, Karami tried to blame it on others, saying: It is rising, what can I do?

In response to a reporter's question about who is responsible for this, Karami said: There is nothing more the government can do, and this is something that you have to understand. This is the result of 16 years of war, and there is a price that must be paid by everybody. He added: If you have a solution, tell us about it. We are ready.

Asked about the rate of the dollar, Karami said: The Central Bank cannot interfere. You can ask the economists.

Regarding the task of the emergency committee and its effectiveness, Karami said the committee is still doing its job.

Foreign Minister Views Resistance, Hostages

NC1403105092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by May Shidyaq and Marcel Ghanim; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ghanim] Mr. Minister: In the last statement you made regarding the negotiations, you called for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the frontline states in Beirut to discuss the future of the negotiations. What is the background to this invitation and how many have accepted it?

[Buwayz] I do not know if the phrase frontline states is correct. I do not know whether there is still a frontline. At any rate, we are convinced that such a conference will only succeed if it leads to comprehensive and genuine peace. The conference cannot succeed with peace between only two countries. It cannot succeed if the talks conclude with an agreement on paper, such as the Egyptian agreement. We believe in the need for coordination, consultation, and understanding to deal with this conference. Lebanon's political and geographical positions negate any argument for not holding such consultations in Lebanon. This is why I invited the foreign ministers of Israel's neighboring states and the states directly concerned with the bilateral talks to meet, discuss, and assess what has happened, and explore what could happen. The topic of this meeting will primarily be whether there are any benefits to holding additional talks before the Israeli elections. Of course, there are many arguments and negative and positive factors to consider. Your question, however, does not necessitate delving into them.

[Shidyaq] The current atmosphere regarding the stages reached by the negotiations on various levels—the Israeli-Jordanian level, the Israeli-Palestinian level, the Lebanese-Israeli level, and the Lebanese-Syrian level [as heard]—does not indicate that there is a willingness to continue on a unified line in the negotiations. (?The atmosphere) indicates that some parties are ready to go it alone.

[Buwayz] I think the opposite is true. I think that the Arab parties began the talks with Israel in a state of disarray and division. I think there has been a realization in the past few weeks that we need to restore understanding and coordination. Each party knows that alone, it cannot ensure political and moral support on the regional and Arab level...

[Ghanim, interrupting] The Jordanian position, for example...

[Buwayz, continuing] Furthermore, each party felt that Israel also might not be enthusiastic about concluding a separate peace with each of them. On the contrary, I think that the present approach may lead to further coordination. Jordan has a special status because it is not demanding the restoration of rights and territory. Jordan's presence in the talks is primarily a sort of cover for the Palestinian presence. It is, in a way, following up the Palestinian-Israeli talks. I think that we can place it in a category between the directly involved states and the indirectly involved states. It may fall in the category as an independent.

[Ghanim] Some people say that Damascus was somewhat embarrassed about the peace conference, and that it tried to obstruct the Madrid Conference. Your call is an attempt to bring the Arab delegations together for coordination. It has not succeeded. Some reports say that your call to convene a meeting of the foreign ministers of the frontline states in Beirut followed Syrian advice to avoid embarrassing them.

[Buwayz] Actually we are at a loss about... [changes thought] If we called for the meeting to be held in Syria, we would hear questions about why we did not hold it in Lebanon. We submitted our initiative as we did to emphasize Lebanon's status, and we are still hearing comments. No, I believe...

[Ghanim, interrupting] The Syrians do not want to appear as if they are obstructing the conference. This is why the call came from Lebanon, from Beirut.

[Buwayz] On the contrary. This issue is not one of obstruction at all. It is not negative. We are saying that we want to assess past rounds of negotiations and explore what is needed to serve the future interests of the conference and the participating countries. No one is saying that this meeting is designed to wreck the peace conference. Absolutely not. I confirm that this call stems from a conviction that Lebanon must restore its effective role; Lebanon has always been the Arabs' ambassador to the West and the West's ambassador to the Arabs. It has always played an effective diplomatic and political role in Arab foreign policy. We all know that Lebanon is a founding member of the Arab League. We all know the historical roles Lebanon played in drawing up Arab foreign policy. We are gradually regaining our vigor, which must also be apparent in the foreign policy domain. It is on this premise that the invitations for the meeting were issued. As I have said before, there is

nothing negative whatsoever about this call. An invitation can proceed from a decision to participate and to continue participating in the peace negotiations. Perhaps after we assess the circumstances, we will reach the conclusion that participating in the negotiations is much better than staying away. We must stress here that we are discussing the next stage, not the principle of long-term participation in the negotiations. We accept the principle of participation. What we are discussing is whether it will be useful to continue the talks before the Israeli elections are held and whether we have reached a deadlock. There are certainly considerations...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] To comment on what you have been saying, if there is a certain accusation against Lebanon, it is that Lebanese diplomacy, through its coordination policy, is overstepping its boundaries. This is where Lebanese diplomacy is right now.

[Buwayz] Actually, I hear the opposite. I am really astonished—it appears that you have very special sources or a special assessment.

[Ghanim] Israeli sources, Mr. Minister. Israeli stands.

[Buwayz] Of course. We expect them to speak like this. As a lawyer I know the ploys used in defense summations; how to provoke the adversary, and weaken him morally.

[Shidyaq] We are not relying on the Israeli sources. We are relying on the prevailing atmosphere in the country.

[Buwayz] So it appears. God willing... [does not complete sentence]

[Ghanim] There are definite Israeli stances on the issue and it is also felt in Beirut that the character of Lebanese diplomacy is being influenced, to some extent, by other policies.

[Buwayz] I believe and emphasize that in a very short time, Lebanese diplomacy—although it has not yet regained its full vigor—is playing a role far superior in extent and level to what is expected of it. I believe that in Madrid—and more than one country has said this—Lebanon entered as if it were a burden, but came out of the conference as a pillar, because it played an additional role. It not only presented its own case, but it played a conciliatory, influential, and coordinative role between Arabs and non-Arabs—the United States to be exact—at this conference. In addition, this same method is being used at the Washington talks. I wish to emphasize that Lebanese diplomacy is proving that it is regaining its vigor.

As to Syria, why are we coordinating with Syria? This is a basic issue. I believe that it must be given sufficient time and a full response. In the first place, let us set aside our relationship with Syria for the moment. I wish to set aside the issue of Lebanese-Syrian relations, which I have explained earlier in connection with several issues. I only wish to deal with this issue in connection with the conference. I wish to say that even if we did not have a good relationship with Syria—I am one of those who say that even if we had a bad relationship with Syria—it would have become excellent during this conference. If there was an issue on which we must coordinate our position with Syria's position, that issue would be this conference, because of certain necessities connected with it.

I wish to say something. Let us be realistic and frank. Let no one practice one-upmanship on this issue. This conference will eventually require the Arabs to make a decision. This is a conference bringing together Israel on one side, and Arab countries on the other. The Arab countries need to make a decision. Who will give the cover for this decision? Who will secure and guarantee it? Not Djibouti or Mauritania, although we appreciate and respect these countries. Who will do it?

[Shidyaq] The Arab countries who are concerned with the conference?

[Buwayz] Primarily the countries who are concerned with the conference, and secondly the countries that have historically been the center of Arab decisionmaking. We know from this region's history that decisions were made in Egypt during the time of the Fatimids, and in Baghdad during the time of the Abbasids, and in Damascus during the time of Umayyads. Let us not deceive each other. The decision must eventually be made, and its Arab cover cannot come from the Arab Maghreb or the far reaches of the Arabian Peninsula. It will come from the geographical and historical heart of the Arab world. Iraq, the seat of the Abbasids, is today outside the game as a result of the Gulf war. The Fatimid capital is likewise outside the game as a result of Camp David. Who is left to give cover to such a conference? We did not invent Syria's special role in this conference. This role imposed itself. So much for the conference. Is there an interest in isolating Syria from the conference and not giving it a responsible role in it? I will try to imagine the opposite. I will give you the answer immediately. Imagine Syria isolated. Imagine Syria believing that this conference is directed against it. Syria would frustrate it. It would unite all the regional, Islamic, and Arab regimes and organizations—both fundamentalist and otherwise—who oppose the conference. If it then gave them political cover, it would be able to form a front opposed to the conference. Would this help the conference?

[Ghanim] Certainly not.

[Buwayz] Finally, with regard to Lebanon, we all know that Lebanon has recently emerged from a state of war. We all know that when we went to the conference, there were contradictions inside Lebanon. This matter was not settled until very recently. It has only been in the last two or three weeks that we have seen the Lebanese people adopting an almost unified stand on the conference. We all know the extent of the divisions that occurred.

[Shidyaq] What was Minister Birri's stance when we were preparing to join the negotiations?

[Buwayz] Let us not use names. Some people adopted much more violent stances. We were aware of the threats that were made, the provocative statements that were uttered, the accusations of treason, etc.

[Ghanim] Against whom were the threats made?

[Buwayz] Those attending the conference. We do not want to go into details. We all remember that stage. We all know perfectly well that Syria played a basic role in persuading many parties who originally opposed Lebanon's participation in the conference. It played a basic role in unifying the domestic front in Lebanon in connection with the conference. Let us be realistic about this. Without Syria's intervention, and the cover it gave to this conference, it would have been very difficult for the Lebanese to agree to participate in it. Perhaps our domestic front would have been split. I am relating matters frankly, without going into...

[Ghanim, interrupting] We notice that some people are saying that progress in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations hinges on progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, that is in a manner that shows...

[Buwayz, interrupting] I will solve the problem for you. Progress in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations hinges on progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, which in turn hinges on progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. They are all linked in one way or another with a general approach. This peace is intended to be a comprehensive peace, a real and global peace [preceding phrase in English]. Global peace [words in English] means that we do not want separate solutions. Real Peace [words in English] means that we are seeking a real peace, not a paper peace and not a security peace. I want to say something very basic. We have experience. I want to assume that I am proposing negotiations in isolation from the other Arabs to conclude a separate peace. We have had experience with this. It is time we learned; it is time we understood what is necessary. We negotiated for a whole year with the Israelis, in the days of the 17 May Accord [of 1983]. Of course, we ourselves did not negotiate—it was the Lebanese state at that time. What was the result? What did the Israelis say when the negotiations ended? They linked the results with written commitments that Syria had to make. We are not linking the negotiations with Syria. Syria makes that connection, as does Israel.

I say, probably for the first time and very frankly, that regardless of whatever agreement we reach with the Israelis, they will not enter into a real state of peace with Lebanon until they are able to enter into a state of peace with Syria, and until they have guarantees from Syria concerning the situation in south Lebanon, the passes, the crossings, and other things.

On this basis, I believe that if we were in disagreement with Syria, we would come to an understanding during this phase. This is even more necessary, because there is no disagreement with Syria.

[Ghanim] Does this apply even at the expense of the implementation of Resolution 425, or the situation in the south?

[Buwayz] I already responded to this question when I said that I emphasize and confirm that Israel does not have the intention... [changes thought] Naturally, what is our stand? Our stand is to embarrass it and commit it to immediately implementing Resolution 425. Israeli has been unwilling to implement Resolution 425 separate from the general atmosphere of the conference.

[Shidyaq] But Lebanon did enter into negotiations. One of the conditions for its entering into negotiations was to obtain an assurance or guarantee concerning Resolution 425 and to separate Lebanon's issue with Israel—with regard to the implementation of Resolution 425—from the Arab-Israeli conflict, that involves all the Arab states. What we are now observing is that coordination with all the Arab countries, not only with Syria, but with Jordan and the Palestinians, is linking Lebanon's fate with the Arab-Israeli conflict and is giving Israel a chance to say: As long as you insist on not reaching a solution to the Lebanese issue, you are linking the issue with a comprehensive solution to the area's problems.

[Buwayz] I believe that I have already answered this question. I would like to explain again and say: We are not the ones linking the two issues. On the contrary, we waged a battle to separate the two issues, in order to obtain assurances and guarantees that Resolution 425 would not be raised at the conference and to secure guarantees from the American side about the independent nature of this resolution. The Israelis are linking the two issues. You are holding us responsible for the Israeli stand.

[Shidyaq] Certainly not.

[Buwayz] Israel says that Resolution 425 is linked to a peace treaty. The contents of Resolution 425, however, do not commit Lebanon to a peace treaty.

[Shidyaq] They say that both sides are adamant. Lebanon is adamant with regard to Resolution 425 and Israel is adamant about a peace treaty. How do we get out of the dead end? Would it be necessary for us to end the negotiations?

[Buwayz] We entered the conference on the basis of Resolution 425. What does this resolution say? It calls for Israel's immediate, unconditional, and total withdrawal from the southern area. What does unconditional mean? It means that Lebanon is not committed to doing anything; it means that Lebanon is not committed to sign a peace treaty, and in the final analysis, it is not required to make any concessions. We are waging our battle on this basis. Who is really trying to link this issue with our considerations? It is the Israeli who says: In return for Resolution 425, we want a peace treaty. This is

a linkage of the resolution with the results of the conference. They mean it when they say: In return for Resolution 425, we want security guarantees. By security guarantees, they mean that they want to know if the Syrians will continue to guarantee the situation in the south. Israel, therefore, is the party making the linkage. We want Resolution 425 to be dealt with independently and immediately. We are striving toward this.

[Shidyaq] If the two sides insist on their stands, will coordination with the rest of the Arab countries have any importance, or will Lebanon, when it reaches a dead end, take a firm stand on continuing the negotiations until its goal has been achieved?

[Buwayz] Naturally, the question of coordination is more comprehensive than that of Resolution 425. In what sense? Resolution 425 is not up for coordination. The other states are not directly concerned with Resolution 425. As for us, we have a clear view and a frank stand on this resolution, because it concerns us. There are some technical and probably tactical aspects to this conference. Where will this conference be held? In which capital? The capital is important for several reasons. When will the conference convene—before, after, or on the threshold of the Israeli elections? In what form will it convene? Will all the Arab delegations attend? In what context will it convene? With American intervention; with a U.S. readiness to intervene?

In the final analysis, Lebanon alone cannot deal with all these issues, and neither can any other Arab state. There should, therefore, be a minimum level of coordination and a common view on the venue, the time, and on how to deal with the Americans and Israelis. Coordination is not linked with Resolution 425.

[Shidyaq] Regarding the U.S. role, we notice that the Arab delegations, including Lebanon, have risked a great deal on the chance that the United States will intercede at a certain stage of the negotiations to press for progress. Developments indicate, however, that it is not prepared to apply direct pressure on Israel. Its policies demonstrate this. Will you continue to bet on U.S. help?

[Buwayz] Frankly speaking, we have no other choice. The other option, that Israel will respond favorably, is very unlikely, almost an impossibility. When we entered this conference, we firmly believed that the Shamir government was very difficult on the peace issue. We believed, and still do, that Shamir will not make any concessions unless he is forced to. We were not deceived in this area. Our bet has been on U.S. pressure, and it was not made randomly. We wagered on the U.S. role after months of deliberation. We were convinced by the letters of assurance. It was not ambiguous. Lebanon and every Arab country received letters of assurance. We told the Americans that we entered the conference on these principles and that we would demand that the United States fulfill its commitments. Should we walk out of the conference, we would free the Americans from their commitments. We believe that if we were to walk out, and free the United States from its clear and frank commitments, that it would help the international community...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] Is there a challenge in continuing the negotiations?

[Buwayz] Absolutely...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] Are you prepared to coordinate to complete the negotiations, despite the failure to achieve any results in the fourth round of talks?

[Buwayz] There is no doubt that if this conference fails, Israel will bear the responsibility. The Arabs must not make any tactical mistakes, as they have in the past...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] There are no results [words indistinct]

[Buwayz] No. The United States has already committed itself and it is not in our interest to release it from its commitments. Anyone who has a bank guarantee would not easily give it up. Regarding the U.S. intercession, it is untrue that the United States is not playing a role. It is not easy to judge its involvement. U.S. intercession can be judged by its serious handling of the conference. We are witnessing the deepest and most dangerous split between a U.S. Administration and Israel, over the loan guarantees. It is absolutely unprecedented. For the past 40 years—since the end of World War II—the United States never refused any Israeli request. This might be the first request that the United States has resisted and rejected. This is the most important way of applying pressure on the conference...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] Isn't the United States retreating a little?

[Buwayz] No, absolutely not. In addition, we realize the role the United States played in past stages. Regrettably, there are certain things we cannot disclose now because we do not want to harm the Lebanese negotiator's role and stand. The United States is indeed playing a role. We have asked it to play an even more effective one, a clear and frank one regarding the implementation of its obligations. The United States did not try to deceive us; it never told us it would play this role or do what was outlined in the letters of assurance within a few months. They fully expected this to be a prolonged endeavor. We expected that it would take at least a year and that the outcome would appear after two years. We are at the beginning of the road and cannot, therefore, judge the conference or the U.S. handling of it after only four months.

[Shidyaq] Before the fourth round, you said that Lebanon would not enter the fourth round unless it received assurances that results would be achieved...

[Buwayz, interrupting] That is correct.

[Shidyaq] It is evident, however, that no results were achieved.

[Buwayz] No. A result has been achieved. There was a definite result.

[Shidyaq] An Israeli threat, as Ambassador Shammas stated?

[Buwayz] When we decide whether to participate in a round, we examine all considerations. It is not a black and white issue. There are positive and negative factors. We consider them all. In the first place, we examined our considerations. We considered that our failure to go to Washington would constitute a certain victory for Shamir inside Israel, with those who say that Shamir is an extremist and cannot continue with the peace process. By not going, we would have been promoting the interests of Shamir, giving him an excuse for his adversaries. He would have been able to say to them: The problem is not me; the problem is the Arabs, who reject peace. Second, by not going, we would have also been promoting Shamir's interests in his confrontation with the United States and the international community. He would have been able to tell them: I am not the extremist, they are—they who reject peace. The third consideration, which I have already mentioned, is that we had received commitments from the United States. Our task is to make it easy for the United States to carry out its commitments. Our task is not to release it from these commitments. The fourth consideration is that we wanted to defend our presence, our views, and our position. Where can we do this easiest? In Beirut or Washington? In Beirut—with all due respect to the media—we can appear before the cameras and talk to the press; however, the scope is limited. In Washington, and at the entrance to the State Department, we can talk and expose the Israeli ploys much more effectively.

[Shidyaq] Israel is convinced that it has made concessions to Washington.

[Buwayz] I have not finished. There is an additional consideration. A battle—if such a term can be used—is currently being waged between the United States and Israel on a number of issues. These include the loan guarantees and other political issues. Where do our interests lie? Is it in stripping the United States of the reasons, justifications, and cards in this battle; or on the contrary, providing it with capital to maintain its pressure on Israel.

I say that this conference is multifaceted, involving considerations which do not always lie on the surface. There are hidden considerations we must always examine. When we decide whether to enter a round of talks, the decision will not be based on whether or not the round will produce political results. There are technical, tactical, media, and moral considerations. We examine all of these. We spent a number of days examining these considerations before making a decision. In the end, the positive considerations prevailed, although by a narrow margin. This is why we participated in this round. The same evaluation will be made in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the concerned states, which I called for. Every minister will discuss the benefits of another round, where and when it should be held, and what its framework and conditions should be. This evaluation will be based on several (?considerations).

[Ghanim] Which parties have responded to this invitation?

[Buwayz] The Palestinian and Syrian teams have responded. We are waiting for the Jordanian team to respond. I believe the Jordanian foreign minister is in New York, accompanying His Majesty King Husayn. The delay in the response could be due only to technical considerations, as the minister is away from Amman.

[Shidyaq] When do you expect the quadripartite meeting to be held?

[Buwayz] We have not yet agreed on a date. It is known that the date will fall sometime between 15 and 25 March.

[Ghanim] Going back to the subject of Resolution 425 and its separation from a comprehensive settlement in the region. It is noteworthy that the the south's resistance could be thrown in among the topics in the settlement issue and regional conflicts, especially in view of the government's adoption of the resistance policy when it is also proceeding along the course of peace. The latter has been rejected by one of the countries supporting the resistance; namely, Iran. In your opinion, doesn't this give Israel a pretext to continue striking what it calls terrorist targets in the south, and to leave things pending: that is, Resolution 425, will not be implemented while the peace negotiations are at a dead end.

[Buwayz] The subject of the resistance is a very sensitive issue. We need to look at it from two perspectives, the negative and the positive. We are in a principled and conscientious situation. The Israelis are occupying southern Lebanon. Can the Lebanese Government prevent any individual who is protected by the legitimacy of human rights and the United Nations—both of which allow him to resist the occupation—from resisting when the government does not yet have sufficient guarantees that it will return his land to him? Of course not. As a matter of principle, I have said previously that the Lebanese Government cannot force anyone to stop the resistance as long as it lacks a clear and frank policy based on a specific time schedule regarding the withdrawal. This has been our policy, and we have told the Americans and everyone else that it is our policy.

[Shidyaq] There is a contradiction between the political stand and ...

[Buwayz, interrupting] Just a moment. What does the word resistance mean? Resistance could be a positive card in the hands of the state in its struggle to retrieve the south. It could also be a negative card. There is no such thing as art for art's sake. In other words, the resistance, like any other military action, must channel its efforts into a political strategy. It serves the cause to the extent

that it works within this line. I have made clear statements on this issue. I said that the resistance must be consistent with the policy of the Lebanese Government. The resistance must respect and take into consideration the demands and political considerations of the Lebanese state.

[Ghanim] But it has not done so.

[Buwayz] Fine. Because it has not done so, it becomes harmful, although its principles are honorable and noble. There is no such thing as good or bad resistance. There is a style it uses in its action which in the final analysis defines the extent to which it has helped Lebanon, and the extent to which the state has benefited from its efforts. The resistance can be a positive card in the hands of the state, as well as a negative one, if it deals with events in an indiscriminate manner and does not take into consideration the views of the state.

[Ghanim] How do you see the resistance today?

[Buwayz] I have said previously that this is what is required, and I have not concealed my statements. It is a demand. At the same time, however, I recognize that we cannot ask anyone to stop the resistance. The resistance must jell with the state's policies. It must join the strategies and views of the Lebanese state. This is what I said in Iran during my visit there. This is what I tell the resistance. In addition, we tell the Americans that we cannot stop the resistance before we have the proper guarantees. This is not double talk. We tell the resistance what is required of it, and we tell the United States or other sides what is required of them when we are asked to do so.

[Shidyaq] So the role of the resistance is positive and negative at the same time.

[Buwayz] After the resistance's response to the latest Higher Defense Council decision to stop launching missiles, I believe that so far—and I cannot make a judgment immediately, we need time for such a judgment—it seems there is a positive policy.

[Ghanim] In other words, the resistance is no longer justified in carrying out operations, when an atmosphere has been created in which negotiations are ongoing.

[Buwayz] No. We do not say that they are no longer justified. We have not yet secured a guarantee. In my meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State Baker in Madrid, we said frankly and clearly that the day we receive a commitment and a timetable for Israel's total withdrawal from southern Lebanon, we would be able to convince the resistance to cease operations. We do not have such a public and explicit commitment, however.

[Shidyaq] There is another question regarding Israel's and the resistance. Isn't there fear of a repetition of the pre-1975 experience, when Israel attacked the Palestinian resistance in the south and the Lebanese Army? Isn't there fear today that it may again use the resistance as a pretext to clash with the Lebanese Army? This is the first part of the question. The second part is: We notice that before every round of negotiations, Israel exploits the existence of the resistance, provoking it in one way or another to escalate the situation. They then use the situation they created to obstruct the negotiating atmosphere.

[Buwayz] Actually, contrary to what some think, I very much doubt that the Israeli policy is based on provocations. I think that the Israeli policy is, unfortunately, a studied policy, not based on reactions.

[Shidyaq] But this is what is happening. We are noticing such...

[Buwayz, interrupting] It is planned. In many cases, there were no justifications for Israel's military intervention; but it intervenes because it had political objectives. Let us be honest. The resistance operations do not, in fact, fully merit the Israeli reactions. My first question is: Why did Israel allow the Palestinians to bring weapons into the south over several years? I believe that none of us has any doubt about Israel's ability to control the southern coast. We all know that ships dock there with Israeli knowledge. It is as if Israel wants to keep the southern situation volatile. We doubt whether Israel seeks pretexts to pursue specific policies.

[Shidyaq] But it is utilizing these pretexts. We did not have to offer them. It is taking cards from ...

[Buwayz, interrupting] One question at a time.

[Ghanim] Why does the resistance...

[Buwayz, interrupting] We have not yet answered the question. We are committed to answering every question; you prefer to pose the questions and not hear the answers. Let me be frank and clear. First, Israel does not intend to offer concessions until after its parliamentary elections. So that it will not face pressure and be blamed for the lack of progress, it has an interest in getting us out of the negotiations by provoking us in the south and in other areas. Second, Israel is using the south as a trump card. What should our reaction be? When I was in Madrid, one night before I was due to deliver my speech, I heard of the Israeli attack on the south. Emotionally, I was prepared to withdraw from the conference.

[Shidyaq] You amended your speech.

[Buwayz] I then clearly saw...[changes thought] No. I did not amend my speech.

[Shidyaq] You did not amend it or add to it?

[Buwayz] No. Responses were added to it after Shamir's speech. Your information on this matter was wrong, and we corrected it. It was a regrettable, intentional mistake at the time. Our immediate reaction was to withdraw from the conference. But I made a careful calculation. I maintained that this was an Israeli attempt to make us leave the talks. In other words, by withdrawing from the

conference, we would have told Israel that if they deal with us in this way, we will respond in this manner. This means that the more progress we make in the talks, and the more we force Israel into a corner, the easier it would be for it—with 10 shells fired at the south—to force our withdrawal from the conference.

We made the opposite decision. We said that we would not be drawn into specific battles, times, and goals that are not in our interest. In a public statement, I even blamed the Palestinians when some Palestinians were detained in the West Bank and deported. Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi said she was going to withdraw from the talks, and I said that would be a grave mistake, that she was falling into an Israeli trap. This means that all the Israelis would have to do to damage the talks would be to kidnap a few people in the West Bank. When the recent developments in southern Lebanon took place, I instructed the Lebanese delegation to continue the negotiations and to explain to the Israelis that we would not withdraw under any circumstances.

I honestly believe it is a major error to deal with the conference on the basis of sentiment. To deal emotionally with it is a fatal error. I believe that we are facing a long-term conference, and we must abandon the traditional, spontaneous, and emotional methods in which the Arabs formerly handled such matters. This conference requires accurate calculation, cool nerves, and a firm vision. It also needs maneuvering, so I always blame the Lebanese media a little when they embarrass us, as if they want to prevent us from maneuvering. Brother, leave us some means of action. In no other country are the media as embarrassing as they are here.

[Shidyaq] Does this mean that when some countries participated in the multilateral negotiations, and some others—Lebanon and Syria—stayed away, it was an Arab maneuver?

[Buwayz] No, it was a decision, not a maneuver. It was a decision that I made, and which I voiced during my chairmanship of the Arab League [ministerial council]. Some of your colleagues were present then. They remember what happened. Before the conference began, or was even proposed, I asked about the nature of the multilateral negotiations. They are an implementation of a state of peace. Alright brother, tell us what form this state of peace will take so that we can implement it. We were not told if a state of peace was going to occur. How can we go and discuss implementing peace when we do not know if peace will occur, or what its form and specifications will be?

[Ghanim] Is this why you participated in the bilateral talks when they resumed?

[Buwayz] No, the bilateral talks are a different thing. The bilateral talks lead to peace.

[Ghanim] Yes, this is why you participated in the bilateral talks when they resumed, because you made a decision [words indistinct].

[Buwayz] Yes, certainly. I also said that the multilateral talks are a price paid to Israel, because they open economic and other prospects in the Arab world. Even if this were so, perhaps we would have no objection to it after peace was established. How can we go and discuss paying a price, however, when we still do not know what Israel will give us. Lastly, I likened the multilateral talks to being asked to make a wedding dress without knowing the bride's measurements. When we ask about these measurements, they say they do not know. We were asked to go to the talks but given vague information. Therefore we said: We will not attend the multilateral negotiations before the bilateral talks make essential, tangible progress. We did not say we will not attend before Israel fully withdraws from the Arab territories. We did not set unreasonable conditions. We demanded essential and tangible progress. We said: Prove to us that peace will come, and what form it will take, and then we will discuss ways of implementing it. I believe it is wrong, however, to be asked gratuitously to jump to conclusions, and go on to stage three before completing stage two.

[Ghanim] Mr. Minister, where was inter-Arab solidarity on the multilateral talks?

[Buwayz] There was no solidarity. We did not spare the Arabs on the solidarity issue. We clearly blamed those who were throwing themselves wholeheartedly [mann yartami] into the process.

[Ghanim] Mr. Minister, why does Lebanon continue to bear the consequence of this lack of inter-Arab solidarity?

[Buwayz] Lebanon is not a charitable institution. Lebanon has interests at stake in the process. It is not merely doing it for the sake of others. Lebanon has no interest in being isolated.

[Ghanim] For whose sake?

[Buwayz] For its own sake and for the reasons I explained at the beginning of our talk. It is not false to say that Lebanon is the ideal yardstick for measuring this conference's essence and spirit. Lebanon is saying that this conference must either be comprehensive, or nothing at all. Let no one be deceived, run more than necessary, or throw himself too wholeheartedly into the process. He will not get anything. Israel will not agree to peace, or enter into a state of peace, unless it is comprehensive. Therefore, this is my loving message to the Palestinian brothers and to the Palestinian negotiator: Rushing into things and showing uncalculated forbearance is not useful. They must keep pace with the rest of us. I send the same message to the Jordanians: There is no benefit in skipping stages and moving ahead of each other in this matter. Either all of us succeed, or no one will succeed. It is forbidden for anyone to succeed unilaterally.

[Shidyaq] Regarding Lebanon, do you share Ambassador Suhayl Shammas' concerns and impressions, which he

voiced at the end of the fourth round of talks, when he commented on the statements made by the head of the Israeli delegation that the consequences of the Israeli resistance [as heard]—and according to the Israeli official, Syrian control of Lebanese territories—will be very grave, and that Israel will respond with a direct attack? Ambassador Shammas believes that there is a threat of an Israeli invasion. Do you agree with this?

[Buwayz] I believe that the Israeli threat continues. I also believe that pressure from the Israeli military on the Lebanese negotiations is continuing. This is Lebanon's fate. But I doubt very much that Israel can undertake a large scale operation. Of course, limited operations and military harassment are possible, and they occur daily.

[Shidyaq] There will be no invasion or direct attack?

[Buwayz] As long as there are no exceptional circumstances, I doubt it.

[Ghanim] What exceptional circumstances?

[Buwayz] A specific undermining of the security situation. I do not believe that there is a possibility of an invasion under current conditions.

[Ghanim] Going back to the issue of the resistance, you said that it has positive and negative aspects; or in other words, the resistance should be a little more harmonious with Lebanon's foreign policy, particularly on the negotiations. But it seems that the resistance is determined. In your view, what has the resistance accomplished? If this option is the right one, then why haven't some of the neighboring countries gone along with the resistance trend, since they have more important military and combat resources and equipment than the Lebanese Army?

[Buwayz] Regarding the current situation of the resistance, I have said that we call on the resistance to be more harmonious, coordinate more with, and become part of the state's strategy; and to take our political situation into consideration. But I must also say that statements made by resistance circles on some issues indicate that the resistance is moving toward a better and a more positive attitude. Of course, we have to wait and see this implemented on the ground.

As to the question of the presence of resistance in Lebanon only, this issue has its historic roots. Lebanon went through a stage... [changes thought] All the Arab countries had probably fought Israel with their armies. Lebanon did not have the military capability. Therefore, the other countries succeeded in controlling the situation by sending their armies to battle, at a time when Lebanon could not do so for many reasons. It is from this premise that a specific resistance began. It was passive resistance; that is, defensive. It began in the Palestinian camps, when the issue of who was defending the camps was raised. Is the Army defending them or do they defend themselves? God forgive the one who invented the theory that the camps should defend themselves. I believe that we all know this. This resistance became entrenched later during the Lebanese war, when the state's establishments, policies, and decisions collapsed and when the Army broke into several groups. That created an authority vacuum in the south. The resistance started to entrench there.

I believe that when the people are confident that the state can defend their rights in the best way possible, when the Lebanese Army advances and strengthens its position and might, and the people are confident that it is also capable of defending them, then the resistance will become more harmonious, as you expressed it, with the state's policies.

[Ghanim] In your opinion, Mr. Minister, why is there no resistance in western al-Biqa"?

[Buwayz] You are asking me a question on a technical matter. The resistance chooses its positions. I do not know what the considerations are. Perhaps there are high mountains there; perhaps there are geographical factors that prevent it. This is a technical question.

[Shidyaq] One last question on this particular issue. It pertains to Jazzin. You said more than once on the eve of the peace conference that there are guarantees for an Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin in return for Lebanon's participation in the peace negotiations.

[Buwayz] No, I did not say that.

[Shidyaq] You said more than once that there will be an Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin within two months...

[Buwayz, interrupting] You are incorrect. No, no, no. You are absolutely incorrect. I clearly said that the United States asked us to negotiate with Israel about its withdrawal from Jazzin out of its belief that this withdrawal would be easy, and could take place within a few months.

[Shidyaq] Did it turn out to be more complicated?

[Buwayz] No. We rejected the view. We clearly said in Madrid that we refuse to begin talks with Israel on the Jazzin issue alone. Jazzin is part of the issue but not all of it. If we were to discuss the issue of Jazzin with them, they would make us forget the south, telling us that Jazzin is the issue and limiting our discussion to it. We are discussing with the Israelis...

[Shidyaq, interrupting] Were there definitely no statements that there will be a withdrawal from Jazzin?

[Buwayz] No. Definitely not. On the contrary. We cited some American circles and others as expressing optimism regarding this issue. But I was careful to say that these were the remarks of some circles and not my own opinion. On the contrary, we told the United States that if Israel wanted to voluntarily withdraw from Jazzin, we would of course welcome the return of every inch of our land, but if we were being asked to negotiate with Israel and pay a price for the return of Jazzin, there is no price

we would pay. We refuse to raise this issue except as part of the agreement on the Israeli withdrawal. This withdrawal, of course, must begin with Jazzin for geographical considerations. It is the last advanced position they have. Therefore, we said that we refuse to discuss any document other than Resolution 425, which is on the table. Of course we will accept if Israel voluntarily wants to adopt measures—without a quid pro quo—to withdraw from Jazzin and says: Let us discuss who should take over. It is our duty to take over our land.

[Ghanim] Do not forget, Mr. Minister, that last year there was a sort of field preparation for the possibility of the Lebanese Army entering Jazzin. Based on some sources and expectations, and based on a statement you made, many people believed that the Lebanese Army's entry into Jazzin was imminent.

[Buwayz] Find this statement for me. It seems that your archives department is somewhat weak.

[Ghanim] On the contrary.

[Shidyaq] [words indistinct] we are not making it up, Mr. Minister. We have taken these statements from the newspapers.

[Buwayz] Is this a question or a thesis?

[Ghanim] It is not a thesis. It is a question.

[Buwayz] So you need an answer.

[Ghanim] Of course.

[Buwayz] You are saying that I made a statement that our entry into Jazzin was imminent. At a certain stage we had offers to discuss the possibility of solving the Jazzin problem. Of course we said that we were prepared to send the Army to Jazzin immediately. This would be a regular, patriotic army, with no rancor toward anyone. It would enter and take over Jazzin without holding anyone to account. We were told that there was the issue of Lahd's brigade and some other elements. We said that we were prepared to discuss this issue within the framework of disbanding all the militias, and that the principles that were applied to the other militias might be applied here. This is all that happened. I do not think I said that the Army will enter Jazzin. This atmosphere causes general expectations. But there was nothing. We never reached a point, at any stage, that we could put an end to this issue. [passage omitted]

[Shidyaq] What have you done about the two German hostages?

[Buwayz] We are all aware that this is a subject that is beyond the capabilities of a large number of states to solve, even those states that have influence with the hostage takers. Through contacts with the Iranians and other parties, I am trying to do everything I can to secure their release. Lebanon and the Lebanese people are hurt more than any other party by this issue. Lebanon is, in fact, the first hostage in the hostage issue. Of course, we do not have unlimited capabilities and we do not know where they are. We do not have the full authority.

[Ghanim, interrupting] Mr. Minister, there are reports that the hostages are in the southern suburb, which is in greater Beirut.

[Buwayz] When you talk about the southern suburb you are talking about 10,000 houses. It is not a small village of a dozen houses, in which the location of hostages could easily be found. I do not believe that anyone can accurately pinpoint where they are being held.

[Ghanim] Then on what basis did Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib say three or four days ago that the...

[Buwayz, interrupting] The interior minister may have some security information that I do not have.

[Ghanim] The foreign minister does not have this infoemation?

[Buwayz] No. They may have obtained some security information recently to justify this statement, which I have not yet been briefed on. As far as I am concerned, I have no information about where the hostages are currently being held.

[Ghanim] This means that the Lebanese Government could possibly bear a huge responsibility on this issue; that is, if it does not aid in the release of the two German hostages?

[Buwayz] No. I would like to clarify a point. In all cases we consider it the Lebanese state's duty to release or to help secure the release of the two hostages, regardless of any other consideration. I reject any commercial angles in dealing with this issue. We are not making this effort under the idea of cooperation with Germany—economic, financial, or any otherwise. I believe that if we have a dispute with Germany, it is our duty to release the hostages. This is what we are doing regardless of any other consideration. Please separate the two issues. It is not honorable to link the two issues and deal with them as such.

[Ghanim] But are they not linking them?

[Buwayz] Let them do so. It is our duty as a state to release the hostages, to help secure their release, without having any other goal in mind.

[Ghanim] There appears to be some sort of a German punishment meted out to Lebanon, that is...

[Buwayz, interrupting] If this is the case, then I understand it. I understand that in this state there is a foreign minister who will ask for a sum of money in order to cooperate with another country. Therefore he has to make the proposal to the parliament. I understand that the German public might not differentiate between hostages in Lebanon and hostages kidnapped by Lebanese.

[Ghanim] Is there a feeling that the Lebanese Government is being negligent?

[Buwayz] No. The government is really doing all it can. I understand that defending the plan for foreign cooperation in the German Bundestag will not be easy.

[Ghanim] But Mr. Minister, it is noted that the Lebanese Government formed the committee only after a German minister arrived in Beirut and raised the issues of aid and the hostages.

[Buwayz] No. The Lebanese Government has been discreetly working on this issue for some months. I confirm that one of the ministers has been charged with doing all that is necessary to resolve the issue. He has even made several trips for this purpose. [passage omitted]

[Shidyaq] Regarding the Syrian presence, President Bush said during an interview with MIDDLE EAST INSIGHT that he expects a Syrian withdrawal, or a redeployment of Syrian forces in al-Biqa' to take place in September. During your contacts with the Syrians, were you told anything about the redeployment of Syrian forces?

[Buwayz] No. I believe that talking about this issue is premature at this stage. I believe that it is linked with several considerations, connected perhaps with the regional and international situation, but also with the capabilities of the Army and other Lebanese agencies. They are also connected with the resistance and other issues, Lebanese unity, and the displaced citizens and prospects for their return home. I believe it is premature to raise the issue. Nevertheless, I believe that Syria, in the long run, does not want to stay in Lebanon, and that it has no interest in remaining in Lebanon. I believe that when the current circumstances to which I referred earlier—the issue of the evacuees, the resistance, and the cohesiveness of the state's agencies—are cleared up, Syria will not maintain its presence here in vain.

[Ghanim] Therefore you do not expect the Syrians to withdraw in September?

[Buwayz] I did not say that.

[Ghanim] You said that there are some matters...

[Buwayz, interrupting] I said that it is still too early to be able to give an answer, an analysis, or an assessment of this issue, because there are several other considerations. It is clear that it was supposed that the Lebanese state would complete, between now and September, all the steps that would qualify it to maintain a solitary presence over all Lebanese areas. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Homeland Party Statement Hails Najibollah Stance

LD1903180992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Central Council of the Homeland Party "in support of the declaration by the president of Afghanistan"; date not given]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Our compatriots were informed about the declaration by the president of Afghanistan, which is the indicative of the principled and flexible stand of the Republic of Afghanistan in actively supporting the UN peace mission. The Central Council of the Homeland Party, in support of the president's declaration, believes that achieving peace and the cessation of bloodshed in the country has an unbreakable link with the successful implementation of the UN process, which invites Afghans to achieve peace and understanding by way of a political solution.

Our party, in the course of the past five years, realizing its national and historical responsibility, chose the policy of national reconciliation, which reflects the aspiration of millions of our war-weary people, and the basis for its political activity. Relying on this policy the party has rendered a series of measures and initiatives, concessions and its flexibility for the purpose of achieving peace, the cessation of bloodshed, understanding, and fraternity in the country.

The UN peace plan, which is in accord with the policy of national reconciliation and constitutes the only path for passing from war to peace, welcomes all parties involved in war, all parties, organizations and formations with political realism, with the feeling of responsibility vis-a-vis the fate of the homeland and the future of its people, with flexibility, and with the preference for national interests over individual and group interests. Our party, as in the past, incessantly supports the struggle to end bloodshed by way of a political solution, is once again ready to do whatever it can to implement this process.

Now the time has come to speed up moves toward achieving peace through active and specific measures, to prepare the grounds for the commencement of intra-Afghan dialogue, to shape transitory mechanisms, and hold free democratic elections.

The declaration by esteemed Najibollah, the president of Afghanistan and the president of the Homeland Party is a constructive step in this direction. As is noted in the declaration of the president of Afghanistan, as soon as an interim government is formed as a result of an intra-Afghan agreement, all executive power and authority will be transferred to the interim government, a government that guarantees national unity, the security of Afghans, the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and full respect for human rights. In order to achieve these aims, as is enshrined in the declaration, required international guarantees must be provided enabling the interim government to carry out its tasks effectively.

The Homeland Party, as a partner in the intra-Afghan dialog and as part of the political solution, is ready to assist the UN organization and the participants forces in activating these tasks in the process of achieving peace, and will actively play its part. Making sound and timely decisions, and realistically approaching the issues of today and the future facing the country, are the [words indistinct] character of our party, and we, as we have done in the past, will adjust our policy to the realities of life, and at the present time, through taking fresh initiatives, measures, and courageous steps, will play our role in the establishment of peace—a demand of every individual compatriot.

The courageous members of the Homeland Party will safeguard wisdom and play its role in the political solution, the defense of the homeland, the strengthening of national unity, independence, security, and in maintaining the security of the people and the high interests of the country.

Success comes from God.

Rabbani Claims To Control Most of Mazar-e Sharif

BK1903143492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Professor Borhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, said the mojahedin have captured Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of the Balkh Province. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said most parts of the province are now under the control of the mojahedin. He added that a major portion of the nearby province of Samangan is already being controlled by the mojahedin. Professor Rabbani said the plan to capture Mazar-e Sharif was chalked out by Commander Masu'd and his colleagues. The mojahedin have also formulated a plan to intensify their activities in the whole of Afghanistan.

Militia-Mojahedin Coalition In Control

BK2003002892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0016 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] KABUL, March 19 (AFP)—A coalition of militia and mojahedin rebels took control of the strategic northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif on Thursday, authoritative Afghan and diplomatic sources said.

However, the relationship of the coalition with the government in Kabul was unclear, and the sources said Afghan Deputy Defence Minister, Nabi Azimi, who

comes from the same ethnic background as the "new management" of Mazar-e Sharif, remained in the city and in contact with Kabul.

Kabul radio and television remained silent on the situation in Mazar, a city of major strategic importance astride the Salang road, which is often referred to as the throat of Kabul because of the food and fuel that must pass over it to keep the Afghan capital alive.

But a senior government source said there appeared to be "a balance, an understanding" in Mazar, and Asian and Soviet diplomats here agreed.

"There seems to be an understanding," said one Asian diplomat referring to the unprecedented coalition of military groups which has taken over the city. The groups have no political ties, but do have strong ethnic bonds.

The government source said he had personally spoken with Azimi, and implied negotiations were going on with the coalition.

In Pakistan, a mojahedin spokesman said the city had "fallen" to mojahedin rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-installed government of President Najibollah in Kabul.

However, sources in touch with the city by telephone said that there was no indication yet as to what the coalition's relationship with Kabul was. All that was known was that Azimi was still there "as a guest" and he was free to leave if he wanted to, they said.

The government source also said that Sayeed Jaffar Nadeiri, an Ismaili general, was in the city.

Jaffar and Abdul Rashid Dostam, an Uzbek commander who has fought in most major battles since the 1989 Soviet troop withdrawal, had more or less walked into Mazar, the sources said.

With them were several Shia Moslem groups allied with the mojahedin, including a faction of the Harakat Islami and another of the Harakat Wahdat, which has close ties to Iran.

In Kabul, where a government spokesman admitted that Mazar had been under attack, airport sources confirmed that no civilian flights had taken off for the city, which at this time of year is normally host to hundreds of people celebrating the Afghan new year which falls this weekend.

Diplomatic observers here noted that the takeover happened at a time when Benon Sevan, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan was in Kabul extracting a promise from President Najibollah that he would step down should the United Nations' plan to install a neutral government succeed.

However, these negotiations were between Kabul and the mojahedin, not between the Pashtun tribesmen, who have dominated the Afghan military and political affairs for the last two centuries, and the country's other tribes—Uzbek, Tajik, Turkmen and Hazara—who are prominent in Afghanistan's north and centre.

Sevan warned in February that if the UN-sponsored peace process did not take off quickly, the country would split along ethnic lines, leaving the Central Asian region open to more and more conflicts.

European diplomats here said late Thursday that an anticipated broadcast by Mazar radio Thursday was apparently unmonitorable in Kabul because of the height of the Hindu Kush mountains that separate the two cities, 437 kilometres (271 miles) apart by road.

But they expected the "new management" to echo the demands of a leaflet that has appeared in the streets of Kabul in the past week.

The unsigned underground leaflet said that all ethnic groups in Afghanistan should be recognised as equals, and should slam the Pashtuns, who have dominated the country for centuries, only if they try to reassert their dominance.

The leaflet also urged the United Nations to make representation in the upcoming UN-sponsored peace talks "weighted" according to ethnic numerical strength.

Native Mazari-e Sharif sources said that hardline army officers had fled to the lines of Pashtun mojahedin in the past two days.

The group they fled to was that belonging to Pashtun leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, like President Najibollah from Paktia Province in eastern Afghanistan, the sources said.

New Administration Unopposed

BK2003011892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1657 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Kabul, March 19 (AFP)—The northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif is under the control of militia loyal to ethnic groups and mojahedin Shi'ite groups, sources from the region said here Thursday.

The sources and diplomats said the groups controlled by government-allied militia leaders—Abdul Rashid Dostam, an Uzbek, and Sayeed Jaffer Nadeiri, an Ismaili—had occupied strategic points in the city late Wednesday afternoon.

However, Kabul's Deputy Defence Minister Nabi Azimi was safe and being "treated as a guest in the city," the sources said and added that "there appears to be an understanding" if not between Kabul and the new occupants of the city, at least between Azimi and the militia.

The sources, who are from Mazar-e Sharif, a strategically important city, one of Afghanistan's largest, which straddles the lifeline Salang Road bringing food and fuel to

Kabul, the seat of Najibullah's government, said phone lines to the city remained open.

They said the takeover of the city was peaceful save for one commander who resisted. The others offered no resistance, and there was almost no fighting, they added.

The militia then occupied strategic points in the city, including the radio station, the television station, police and military headquarters.

The sources identified the Shi'ite groups involved in the relatively peaceful takeover as Harakat Islami of Ayatollah Mohseni and Hezbe Wahdat of Ali Mazari, besides another Harakat faction led by Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

They further added that the supervisory council of the north, which is headed by mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Masud, had organised a city council to administer Mazar-e Sharif as well as a regional council.

All key city leaders had been changed, they said.

The heads of the city radio station, the airport and other facilities had all been replaced, they said, adding that a broadcast was expected to be made over Mazar Radio station later Thursday night.

Diplomatic sources said General Azimi, who was in a house belonging to Dostam, was "a special guest" and would be free to go if he chose.

Pashtun officers in Mazar had fled to units of Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin groups in the vicinity of the northern city, they said.

The Hezb is headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who like President Najibullah in Kabul, is a member of the Pashtun, the people which has dominated Afghanistan politically and militarily for the past 200 years.

The Kabul government's crisis with the militia groups and some government forces began last month when Najibullah began replacing ethnic Tajik and Uzbek commanders in the northern provinces with Pashtuns, most of them from his home province of Paktia in the east.

Resentment built and one commander General Momen, a Tajik, refused to quit his post as commander of Hayratan.

Dostam, used since the Soviet withdrawal by Najibullah as a storm trooper in major battles against mojahedin, sided with Momen, as did Nadeiri.

Diplomatic sources said they understood that regular army troops belonging to a leftist group dominated by Tajiks had also taken part in the largely peaceful takeover.

"It appears there is an understanding (with Kabul)," said one diplomat late Thursday.

The news of the takeover, which has not been announced by Afghan television or radio, did not, however, make it clear whether the new administration would be hostile to Kabul or not.

A government spokesman earlier Thursday had said the Salang Road was open, and rumours in Kabul's bazaar said that Masud, a Tajik commander of the council of the north, had issued a letter saying the road should be kept open.

Islamic Unity Party Spokesman on Takeover of Balkh

LD1903145192 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Vienna, March 19, IRNA—Afghan mujahideen captured the strategic province of Balkh in northern Afghanistan following three days of extensive military operations Wednesday, spokesman for the Vahdat-r Eslami (Islamic Unity) Party in Europe told IRNA here today. He said massive operations of the Afghan mujahideen in all the northern provinces have begun with a prime aim of controlling the military and administrative centers of these provinces.

The border town of Hawratan, governorate of Tashqorghan [Kholm], the city of Aibak, capital of the Samangan Province, as well as capital of the Baghlan Province are under total siege by the Afghan mujahideen, he added.

The spokesman referring to the joining of a large group of the Kabul regime's commanders, officers and paramilitary troops to the mujahideen, said these commanders are cooperating with the mujahideen and people in administering the city of Mazar-e Sharif, capital of the Balkh Province.

Afghan mujahideen of the Vahdat-e Eslami party and Jami'at-e Eslami (Islamic Society) Party have infiltrated 80 percent of the northern provinces which have common borders with the newly independent repulics of Central Asia.

Seven Islamic Party Members Killed in Clashes

LD2003101892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seven members of Golboddin's Islamic Party were killed as a result of severe clashes which took place recently at Kapisa Province's Nejrab district. The BIA military section reported that during the clashes which took place between the Zabet Khan Baba and Jan Agha groups and between the Mohammad Ajan and Mohammad Aziz groups, 12 other people involved in the clashes were injured. Another 15 were captured in all. A number of houses were destroyed by heavy ammunition.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers New Year Message

LD2003110792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0852 GMT 20 Mar 92

[New Year Message by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, for radio and television, on 20 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I sincerely congratulate the dear compatriots on the occasion of the Festival of Nowruz [New Year]. I specifically address myself to those self-sacrificing strata, such as the dear families of the martyrs, the disabled of the imposed war and their families, former and current POWs, and those missing in action and their families; and all the armed forces, including the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the million-strong Basijis. Our country is indebted to you.

Happily, on this Nowruz we can extend our congratulations to those nations which this year began to celebrate Nowruz freely. I offer my congratulations to the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the people of Tajikistan, to the people of Uzbekistan, to the people of Turkmenistan, and to many other peoples in the countries of the region that celebrate Nowruz. [passage omitted]

The year which we leave behind was a year in which major events took place in the world arena. Inevitably, we were involved in these events. Some had sweet and desirable fruits, while others had possibly undesirable effects. Of course, officials are making every effort to increase the sweet and desirable effects of the events which take place in the world, while minimizing their bitter and undesirable effects.

One of these events was the breakup of the Soviet empire, the USSR. It was the demise of a superpower, which was truly a great event in our time and in our history. This event is important from several points of view. From one point of view, it is important because it brought about the freedom of many nations, including some Muslim nations. Millions of Muslims in this region and in our neighborhood managed to speak of their Islamic aspirations and culture openly. They were deprived for decades of that natural right.

The second point is the fact that the demise of a superpower at this moment in time—which had been a time of domination by the superpowers over the lives of nations—is an event which can inspire hope in weak nations. It can be a lesson for the intelligent people of the world.

Another important event in the year we are leaving behind was the awakening of Muslims, leading to an intensification of Islamic uprisings in various countries. We received full reports on these events last year, and our dear nation has been aware of them.

Among the sweet events for us in the past year was the increase in the influence and stature of our dear country on the world arena. Our country had an obvious role in international events, which attracted the attention of the world to our country; which in turn led to an expansion of positive cultural, political, and economic ties with sound countries of the world. That was very good for us. This was due to the sacrifices and efforts of those who have been active during the past years in various arenas. [passage omitted]

The efforts of the government and officials in the reconstruction of the country were evident during the past year. A number of good infrastructure projects were either started or completed during the year. [passage omitted]

What I can tell you about last year, whose close you are witnessing, is that it was a very active and eventful year in terms of world developments. Many efforts were made; successful endeavors were made.

I deem it necessary to repeat and remind you of our nation's great political victory, which came in the form of the United Nations declaration about the war, to the effect that Iraq started the war. Eight years of endeavor by our nation and the hard struggles of this nation acquired new life and significance in the world. Even though the just and the justice-seeking people were aware of the facts even before this declaration—more than anyone else, our nation was aware of its own righteousness and correctness—this nation needed that declaration from the most formal international organization.

In any case, the year was a successful year. We had many relatively successful achievements. We took a number of steps forward. No one can claim that we have achieved our ambitious goals, but we have taken steps in that direction and, God willing, our nation will achieve those goals. [passage omitted]

Law Enforcement Head on Efforts Against Drugs

LD1603151792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1245 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Oqba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Law Enforcement Forces, took part in an interview with our correspondent in which he reviewed the performance of the Greater Tehran Law Enforcement Forces during the past [Iranian] year. He said:

[Begin Oqba'i recording] More than 150 large and active networks involved in the production and distribution of narcotics were identified, their members arrested, and their gangs smashed in the Greater Tehran region during the past year. Over 5,430 kg of various kind of narcotics were seized from these merchants of death. Also, more

than 2.8 billion rials in cash were seized from smugglers and gangs involved in the production and distribution of narcotics.

More than 150 weapons of various kinds were confiscated from smugglers who were caught in the act of dealing in narcotics. Over 150 heavy and light vehicles of various kinds were also seized from smugglers and handed over to the judicial authorities. [passage omitted]

We also identified 40 large and active gangs involved in armed robberies in Tehran. Their members were arrested and the gangs smashed. Huge amounts of gold, various kinds of foreign currency, and stolen cash were confiscated from them.

During the New Year holidays [20 March to 3 April], we are deploying special forces in all our police stations and security zones. Some of these surveillance forces operate on foot and some are mobile. They will be active around the clock during the New Year holidays within their security zones. [end recording]

Iraqi Kurdistan Front Delegation Arrives 15 Mar

JN1603210392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran—A ranking Iraqi Kurdistan Front delegation, led by struggler Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front and secretary general of the Iraqi Kurdistan People's Party, arrived in Tehran, capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 15 March. The delegation will discuss with officials in Tehran possible ways and facilities to deliver international aid to Iraqi Kurdistan, to implement the European Parliament's decision to lift the economic blockade of Kurdistan, to send food and necessary supplies to Kurdistan through Iran and Turkey, and to establish an airlift for this purpose.

Another delegation will visit Turkey for the same purpose.

Meets Presidential Adviser

LD1603084392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, an official of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, and the delegation he leads submitted a report on the latest developments in Iraqi Kurdistan during a meeting today with Mr. Moayeri, presidential adviser on international affairs.

*Paper on Khamene'i Alliance With Montazeri

92AS0591P London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 12

[Text] If not for the direct mediation of 'Ali Khamene'i, the business of Morteza Alviri, the head of the Majles budget committee, and the special court of the clergy would have reached a critical point, because Alviri not only was among the 10 Majles representatives who visited Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in Qom, but he himself was one of those who arranged this visit. In a pre-agenda speech at the Majles, he even announced that more than 80 representatives of the Majles were emulators of the "revered religious jurist, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri."

These statements in the Majles as well as visiting Montazeri, whom Khomeyni had prohibited from interfering in affairs, in Qom were very significant. In fact, Khamene'i could have considered them an insult. However, not only did Khamene'i not reveal that he was offended, but he also prevented prosecution of Alviri as well.

Political observers in Tehran and Qom do not consider this to be the result of the fervent regard of Khamene'i for the freedom of the representatives of the Majles in choosing their source of emulation but say that Khamene'i, despite the fact that in this respect he is of the same opinion as Rafsanjani and Mohammad Yazdi in wanting to remove a significant portion of the third Majles representatives from the fourth Majles, does not by any means want control of the Majles to fall into the hands of Rafsanjani extensively, because if Rafsanjani and he succeed in removing the so-called extremists and, in fact, their rivals from the fourth Majles, the next round of the power struggle will be a battle between 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani.

Hence, Khamene'i thinks that in this battle Montazeri will be able to render him a great service, because although Khamene'i has usurped Montazeri's place through a joint conspiracy with Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni, Montazeri blames a major part of this conspiracy on Rafsanjani. In turn, he also calculates that on the path to achieving absolute power, he will be better able to thwart Khamene'i than Rafsanjani.

*Khamene'i Sides With Council of Guardians

92AS0638A London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Finally, a month and a half before the elections for the Fourth Majles (21 Farvardin 1371) [10 April 1992], 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic, broke his silence and said that according to Article 99 of this law, the Council of Guardians has the right to interpret the Constitution.

'Abdollah Nuri, the Islamic Republic's minister of the interior, who had said previously that the Constitution has "ambiguities" in this regard, announced in Ahvaz, "the advisability of supervision by the Council of Guardians of the elections to the Fourth Majles has been confirmed by the leader." Thus the ambiguity has disappeared: "With the announcement of the view of the leader, every kind of ambiguity in this regard has been removed for the Ministry of the Interior."

With the announcement of Khamene'i's view, the hardliners have lost their last hope, and now, according to the views of observers, they will have to choose between

participating in the elections and being defeated, and boycotting the elections and distancing themselves from the elections.

*Israel 'Seeks Peace While Waging War'

92AS0749A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Actions always tend to speak louder than words. Often there can be a wide gulf between the two as in the contradictory behavior of the Zionist regime, maintaining it seeks peace while waging war.

During the past four months in Madrid and Washington, Israel has been claiming that it wants a peaceful settlement with Muslim countries in the region. But at the same time, it has increased its terrorist activities, carried out bombing raids on Lebanon, deported Palestinians, built more illegal settlements, armed vigilante groups to protect them and order a shoot-to-kill policy in the occupied territories. For any remaining sceptics, the Zionist regime proceeded to insidiously murder Hizballah leader, Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, together with his wife and child, which has turned out to be a prelude to the further invasion of Lebanon on Thursday.

A discrepancy between words and actions can also be seen from the lack of response from the international community. Both the U.S. and the Security Council, echoing a similar stance, have merely called for restraint to be exercised to end what they each called "violence." Neither specifically singled out Israel nor mentioned the word "invasion." After the Zionist regime indicated that its operation was to be short-lived, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali called for an immediate withdrawal of what he said was an "incursion" into an area occupied by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNIFIL has 5,800 troops that have been stationed in southern Lebanon since the first Israeli invasion in 1978 but their actions apparently put up little resistance to the latest invasion by Zionist tanks, armored troop carriers and helicopter gunships. Neither did they prevent the 1982 full-scale occupation of Lebanon nor have they stopped the frequent bombing raids made by Israel.

What has been mere words and not actions for a decade has been Security Council resolution 425, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation. It has left the UN peacekeeping force helplessly inactive in overseeing the withdrawal of Zionist troops that did not happen and instead have been left sitting north of the self-declared Israeli security zone. But for what purpose, no one is saying.

Reports are that Hizballah and other Lebanese groups have mobilized and the invaders have retreated, but whether the invasion remains to be limited, one need only look at Israeli's false words in 1982. What is certain is that Zionist belligerence can only be met with firm action not words and can start with the implementation of resolution 425 by whatever means it takes to prove once-and-for-all that Israel can no longer be treated with impunity.

Pakistan

Sharif Welcomes Najibollah Offer To Step Down

BK2003073092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has welcomed Najibollah's offer to step down in favor of an interim government in Afghanistan. In a statement in Islamabad, he said the offer removes a major hurdle in the way of finding a political settlement to the Afghanistan problem, bringing a step closer the successful end of the glorious struggle for freedom by the valiant Afghan people. The prime minister described Najibollah's categorical announcement that he will not seek a role in the new administration as positive and realistic. He called for a positive response to the offer which, he hoped, would pave the way for establishment of an interim government that will hold free and fair elections in Afghanistan. The prime minister said the long struggle and sacrifices of the valiant Afghan people have finally been (?rewarded).

Jatoi Protests NPP Expulsion From IJI

BK2003020892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1712 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Karachi, March 19 (AFP)—Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, head of the National Peoples Party (NPP) and a former caretaker prime minister, said Thursday his party's expulsion from Pakistan's ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) was unconstitutional.

Reacting to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision on Wednesday to "offload" the NPP from the alliance, Jatoi said "I am no more in the IJI, which is headed by a person called Nawaz Sharif who has no legal or constitutional position."

"The decision was not taken with unanimity in the meeting of heads of the component parties, as required by the constitution of IJI on membership of the alliance," he said.

"Sharif cannot take this decision alone because his term as IJI president expired in February, and in fact he is nobody in the IJI, and in fact there are no central office bearers of the alliance," Jatoi said.

Jatoi did not rule out the possibility of forming an anti-Sharif grouping with other parties within the IJI, saying consultations would take place soon and he was already in contact with various leaders.

Jatoi described Sharif's decision to expel his party as a "reflection of his double standards and hypocritical policies."

Sharif's decision taken Wednesday to expel the NPP followed Jatoi's decision to join hands with the the opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province.

Jatoi's son, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, was sacked from his post as communications minister last week following the PDA-NPP arrangement in Sindh.